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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Southwestern Region

Recreation Opportunity Guide

Instructions

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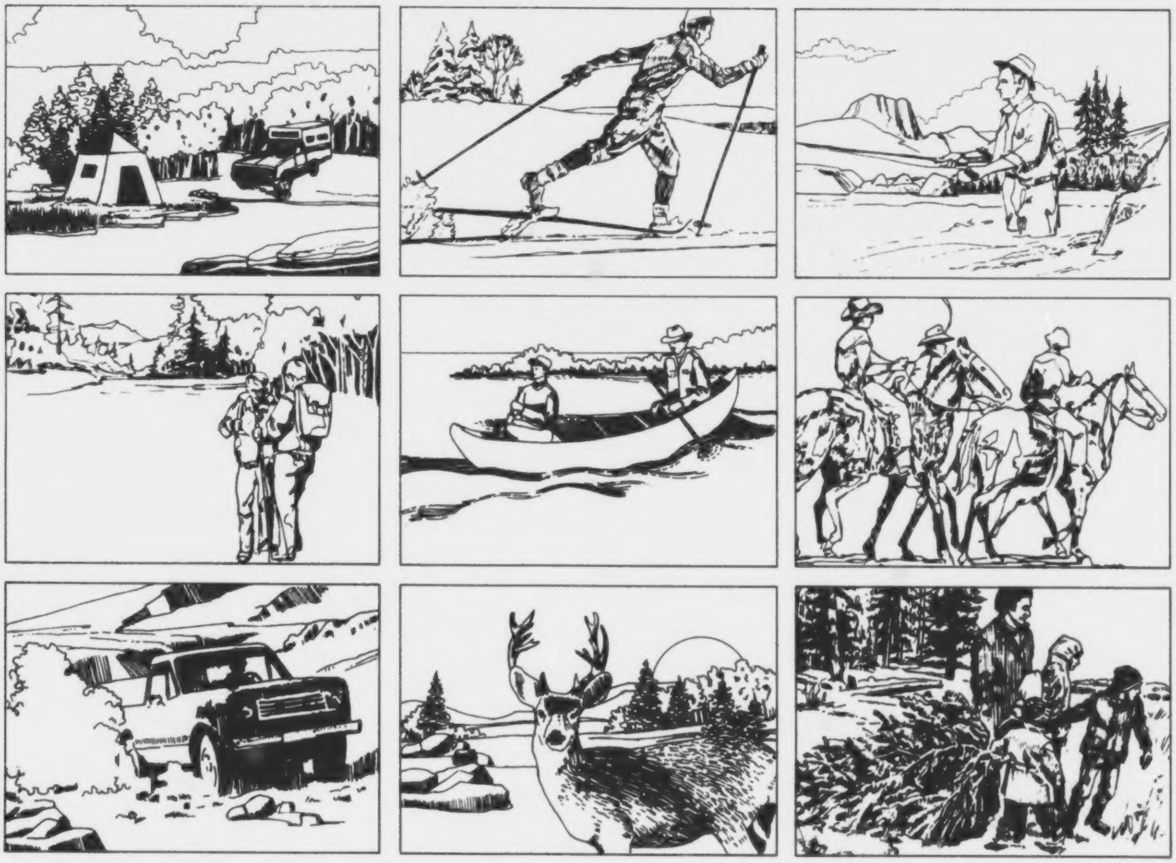

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Recreation Opportunity Guide -- Instructions

What, Why, and How

Foreword

All land in the National Forest System offers recreation opportunities for people. However, many of these opportunities are not readily available to everyone. The Recreation Opportunity Guide is a means for making opportunities known to National Forest visitors.

A few years ago most people who used the National Forests for recreation either lived nearby or came with someone who knew the area well. Our population, and the National Forest user, has changed. People move frequently from area to area or spend vacations in National Forests far from home and need help to enjoy the full spectrum of opportunities. There is considerable information about developed recreation sites, and high public interest has brought much visibility to wilderness. There is, however, a lack of information about the general forest area where the largest number of opportunities exist.

The Recreation Opportunity Guide will assist visitors in locating and participating in forest recreation activities. Localized information provided by the Guide will make their experience more enjoyable and meaningful.

Paul D. Weingart

PAUL D. WEINGART
Director of Recreation
Southwestern Region

Introduction

The Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG)* is the product of a system that inventories National Forest recreation opportunities and presents the resulting information to the public. In addition, it is a management tool that will assist District and Forest personnel in obtaining proper utilization of the recreation resources on the District. It is the intent of the Forest Service, through the Guide, to increase the public's awareness, enjoyment, and participation in dispersed outdoor recreation activities on National Forest lands.

These instructions discuss the need for a Recreation Opportunity Guide and the procedures for developing it:

1. Selecting activities and areas.
2. Inventorying the recreation resources and opportunities.
3. Recreation Opportunity Guide format.
4. Review of Guide text, printing, and distribution.
5. Updating and follow up evaluations.

The inventory process is described in more detail within these blue pages. Another section, on buff-colored pages, consists of reproductions of sample pages from the Recreation Opportunity Guide developed for the sample Ranger District, Cholla National Forest based upon a Region 1 Guide, where the concept was developed and first implemented.

*ROG and Guide are used interchangeably in these Instructions.

Need for the Recreation Opportunity Guide

The Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG) was developed in response to the need for a coordinated system of information about recreation opportunities available on National Forest land.

Over the past decade or more, the lifestyle of the average American has changed significantly. Improved working conditions, increased income, additional leisure time, and greater mobility have combined with other factors to result in a dramatic growth in participation in outdoor recreation activities. Because of increased activity diversity, the "typical user" of our National Forests can no longer be easily defined. Rather, we are dealing with a heterogeneous population of users as diverse and overlapping as the activities which they enjoy, composed of all age groups, economic backgrounds, cultural settings, experience levels, perceptions, and expectations.

As a result, problems and concerns have surfaced about management of National Forest and other lands. Many areas have become overcrowded, user conflicts have developed, resource damage and degradation have become apparent, and there is steadily increasing use pressure on designated wildernesses and primitive areas. Obviously, this Guide does not present a program of relief for all these problems. However, it does provide a means for informing visitors and solving some of these problems.

The average recreationist is exposed to requests for a variety of information and opinion concerning outdoor activities, equipment, and locations; however, the user is not always able to located more or better information.

Through the ROG, the Forest Service will become more accessible to the recreationist. The ROG will accumulate through one systematic source, current resource management policies and the knowledge and expertise of Forest employees. It seeks to disperse recreationists by providing alternatives to well known and overused areas. It can channel use away from overused wildernesses and primitive areas, thereby aiding in their preservation and improving visitors' experiences. The Guide also provides information pertaining to health, safety, and environmental education. It will provide the opportunity for the Forest Service to better manage both the recreation resource and users of that resource, and for improving the quality of visitors' experiences.

Preparing a Recreation Opportunity Guide

Step-by-step procedures necessary for the completion, maintenance, and evaluation of a Recreation Opportunity Guide are described below. Although this format has been developed for a sample Ranger District, the prototype affords flexibility for adaption in the areas of staffing, format, and recreational content.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

As with all programs, sufficient funds and staff must be available before this type of project can be undertaken. Although managers are concerned with cost estimates for project proposals, a cost breakdown for the development of a Recreation Opportunity Guide is difficult. Costs depend on the number of recreation opportunities included, the time allotted for inventorying the opportunities, the quantity of texts reproduced, and the amount of maintenance and activity additions necessary to keep the text current.

To develop a Recreation Opportunity Guide, Districts will need to assign existing personnel and/or enlist the aide of qualified volunteers. Recreation Staff in the Regional Office will assist as resources permit.

Since the result of this project is the production of a printed text, a substantial amount of typing can be expected. Use of word processing equipment is encouraged to permit future updating with minimum effort.

THE PROCESS

While Region 3 is using the ROG system developed by Region 1 it incorporates revisions. These revisions include utilization of a Recreation Opportunity Scale that is synchronized with an Elevation/Distance Graph for each appropriate activity location. Samples illustrating this procedure are included in "The Inventory Process," the blue section, pages 23 through 54.

Selecting and Categorizing Activities

The National Forests provide diverse opportunities for outdoor recreation. Below are activities generally available on National Forest lands and waters. Many of the major categories have been subdivided. The list is meant to aid you in selecting activities for inclusion in a ROG and establish common terminology. It is not necessarily all-inclusive.

- Archery

- Bicycling:
  - Day trips
  - Touring

- Bird Watching

- Boating:
  - Canoeing
  - Kayaking
  - Power Boating
  - Rafting
  - Row Boating
  - Sailing
  - Tubing

- Camping:
  - Auto-tent
  - Trailer
  - Truck-camper
  - Vehicle related

- Caving:
- Fishing
  - Lakes
  - Streams

- Hiking:
  - Backpacking
  - Cross-Country
  - Day hiking

- History/Archeology:

- Horseback Riding:
  - Day/evening rides
  - Pack/saddle trips

- Hunting:
  - Big game
  - Small game
  - Upland birds
  - Waterfowl

Identification/Gathering/Collecting
  Christmas trees, firewood, etc.
  Flora (berries, mushrooms, etc.)
  Geology (rocks, minerals, etc.)

Mapping/Orienteering

Motorcycling

Mountaineering:
  Rock climbing
  Snow, ice climbing
  Alpine hiking (off trail)

Nature Walks:
  Viewing interpretive exhibits
  Attending talks and programs
  Guided and unguided tours/walks
  Listening to audio programs

ORV Travel
  Four-wheel drive
  Dirt biking

Photography:
  Wildlife
  Scenic
  Works of Man

Picnicking

Running

Sightseeing
  Scenery
  Fall Color

Skiing: Cross-country (nordic)
  Day Loops
  Ski Touring (overnight)
Skiing: Downhill (alpine)

Skin/Scuba Diving

Snow play/Sledding/Toboganing/Tubing:

Snowshoeing:
  Day trips
  Overnight

Snowmobiling

Sport Shooting

Criteria for Activity Selection

Activity selections are based on the following criteria:

1. Knowledge of facilities and resources that exist on National Forest Lands.

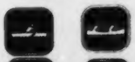
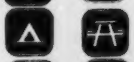
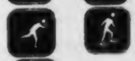
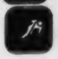
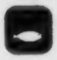
2. An adequate number of locations for activity participation are available to warrant inclusion of that activity. An insufficient number of locations could result in a concentrated rather than a dispersed use pattern.

3. Activities that take place on National Forest lands and have increased in participation.

4. The environment would be conducive to support that activity.

5. It is not necessary to include all activities in the initial preparation of the ROG. It is suggested that the District commence its ROG with those most popular opportunities, and activities that are best known and understood by staff. The ROG is so designed that additions can be made as time and expertise are available. Additional activity pages are simply inserted in the Guide as needed.

The following activities were selected for the Sample Ranger District's Guide. Selections may vary on your District but titles, abbreviations, and symbols from the National Standard list will be used. If you cannot find one to fit your needs contact the Regional Office.

Activity	Abbreviation	Symbols	Number
Boating (canoes, kayaks, rafts, etc.)	B		57,79
Camping & Picnicking	CP		38,44
Cross-country Skiing/Snowshoeing	XC		46,78
Downhill Skiing	SK		47
Fishing (lake, stream)	F		63

Four-Wheel Drive (motorized vehicles over 40" width)	4-WD	67
Identification/Gathering, Collecting (Christmas tree cutting, firewood gathering, berry picking, etc.)	IG	X-1,2,3
Hiking	H	68
Horse Pack/Saddle	HP	64
Hunting (big game, game birds, waterfowl)	HT	72
Motorcycling (motorized vehicles under 40" width)	MC	65
Self-guided Roads and Trails	SG	75
Sightseeing (by auto)	S	03
Snowmobiling	SM	52
Sledding/Tobogganing/Tubing	SP	49
Sport Shooting	SH	72

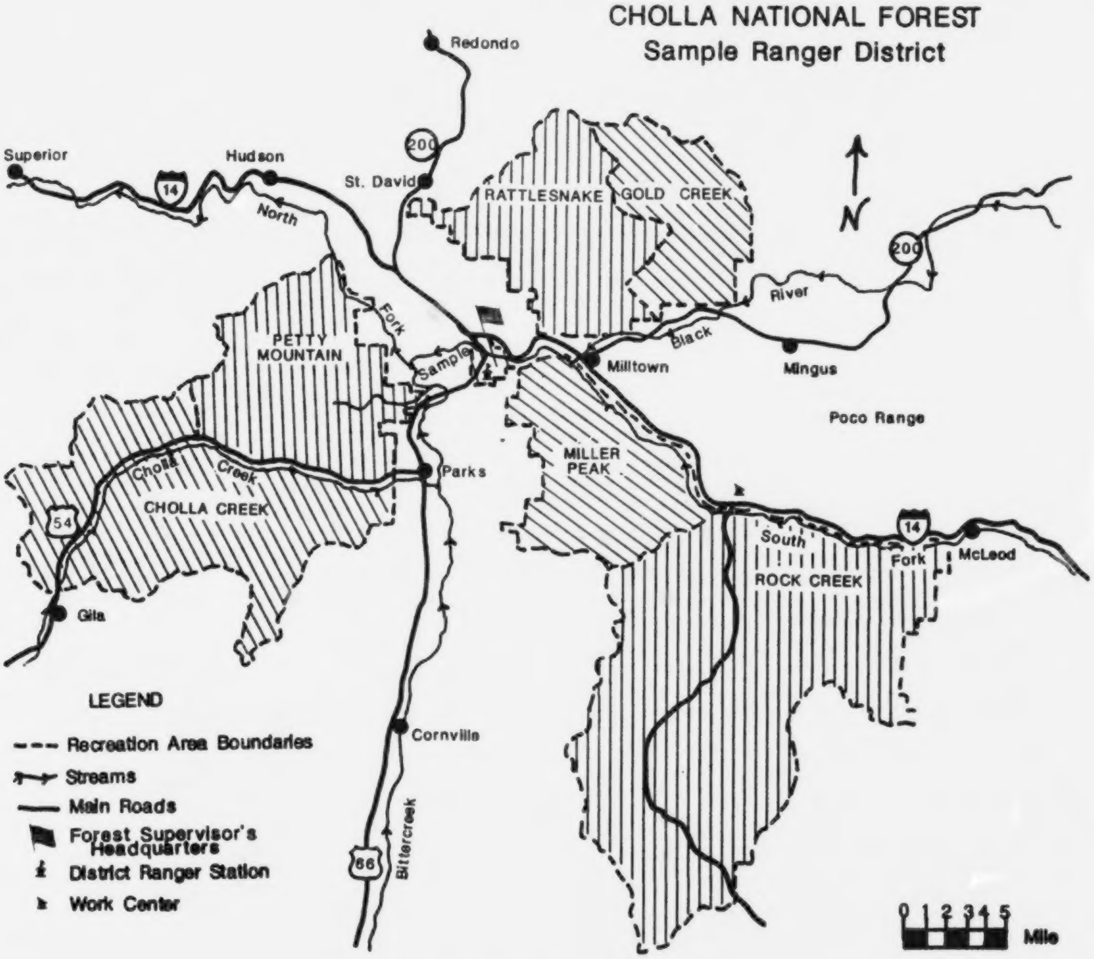

CHOLLA NATIONAL FOREST
Sample Ranger District
Redondo
200
Superior
Hudson
14
St. David
North
RATTLESNAKE
GOLD CREEK
N
200
River
Fork
PETTY MOUNTAIN
Sample
Black
Milltown
Mingus
Poco Range
Parks
MILLER PEAK
Cholla
Creek
CHOLLA CREEK
54
South
14
Fork
McLeod
ROCK CREEK
Gila
LEGEND
Recreation Area Boundaries
Streams
Main Roads
Forest Supervisor's Headquarters
District Ranger Station
Work Center
Cornville
Bittercreek
66
0 1 2 3 4 5
Mile

Figure 2. Sample District Map

INDEXING OPPORTUNITIES BY AREAS

Many locations will probably be identified for each activity. Listing all locations for all activities will result in a complicated cross-referencing system. To alleviate this problem, each of the potential locations recommended for an activity is referenced to an AREA.

National Forest lands on the Sample District were divided into the five following AREAS:

1. Cholla Creek
2. Petty Mountain
3. Rattlesnake-Gold Creek
4. Miller Peak
5. Rock Creek

The AREAS correspond to planning units on the District but the perceptions and needs of the recreationist should be the primary consideration in AREA delineation. AREAS should be easily recognized and distinguishable by the public. AREAS identified on the sample Ranger District are designated by geographical landmarks such as major drainages or mountain peaks familiar to local residents which have been cleared by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

INVENTORYING RECREATION RESOURCES

As a first step in inventorying opportunities, determine the source and extent of information currently available on a District, i.e., Recreation Information Management (RIM) system, Code-A-Site, etc. Knowledge and insight may be obtained from personnel and existing files and records. Although this is a valuable source of information for the Guide, individual perceptions tend to be subjective, thus requiring verification. In addition, files and records rarely contain all the detail necessary for assessment of current recreation opportunities and locations. A systematic inventory system is necessary for gathering additional field information.

During inventory, it is helpful to have one or more individuals familiar with the system complete as much of the field inventory as possible. This insures consistent, objective, and comparable data. Seasonal employees and volunteers provide a valuable source of manpower necessary for field inventory. However, the person completing the inventory may be biased in favor of one activity, and have little or no insight into others. Ideally, field personnel familiar with the activity should accomplish the inventory. Or, after field work has been completed, input from resource management personnel with a wider experience base could be obtained. Inventory reports, prepared primarily for ROG, can be coordinated with other management programs to maximize the value of time and funds used in gathering information, i.e. trail inventories.

To simplify the inventory, activities can be placed in one of three broad categories. Generally, activities lend themselves to classification according to where and by what means they are enjoyed. Inventory procedures for the four categories are discussed below, and in detail with examples in The Inventory Process section.

Route-Related Activities

Route-related activities are those that utilize trails and roads as their focal point. Activities primarily route-related are hiking, cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, horse pack/saddle, motorcycling, snowmobiling, and four-wheel driving. Although an activity such as cross-country skiing or snowshoeing often utilizes a general area rather than relying solely upon a trail or road, it can usually be defined as occurring within the boundaries of a recognizable corridor.

The Inventory Process section describes in detail the route-related inventory process developed for ROG. It is flexible enough to allow for subjective evaluations that characterize conditions and recreational activities on a given District/Forest.

Illustration of route locations on a District or Forest map facilitates easy review for completeness and accuracy. Routes without a formal name or number should be given temporary designations to avoid confusion. After a list of necessary inventory work is compiled, priorities for completion can be established. A systematic filing system for completed inventory reports will also be quite useful.

Ideally, the person completing the inventory should participate in each activity recommended for a particular route or location. It is obvious, however, this option is usually not practicable. The data may be used as a basis for several activities that pertain to a given route or location. The person completing the field inventory should understand the needs, problems, and concerns that face users.

Site-Related Activities

A site, for the purpose of ROG, is a location providing for a recreational experience that has been developed by man and has supportive facilities. Activities identified as site-related on the Sample Ranger District are: alpine skiing, camping and picnicking, and snowplay. A variety of designated sites are located within the District boundaries, including:

- Picnic Sites
- Campgrounds
- Special Access Sites
- Downhill Ski Sites
- Historical Sites
- Group Use Sites
- Interpretive Centers

Because the Forest Service and other land management agencies have been involved in the development and maintenance of many of these sites, resource information about sites is usually available. Many sites have also been catalogued under the Recreation Inventory Management (RIM) system, from which additional data can be obtained. However, when a site has not been included in the RIM series or the reliability of the information is questionable, a field inventory should be made, the information can then be used in both RIM and ROG if desired.

An outline of the information to be inventoried at site locations is shown in The Inventory Process section of this report. The site-related inventory form can be used for several types of sites (fishing access site, downhill ski site, etc.).

Currently, the Code-A-Site system is the most efficient method of collecting information on dispersed recreation sites. For this reason, an inventory system for dispersed sites is not included here. Code-A-Site inventory data is sufficient and should be used for ROG purposes.

Area-Related Activities

Area-related activities differ from route-, site-, and waterway-related activities because they utilize nonspecific locations on National Forest lands. Area-related activities are often associated with consumptive types of recreation which involve the removal of a forest resource. Activities denoted as area-related for the Sample Ranger District are: identification/gathering, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and sport shooting. These activities take place on large sections of National Forest land and/or are usually consumptive types of recreation. Each activity requires an individual inventory approach.

The title, "Area-Related Activity," should not be confused with the term AREAS which relates to a specific geographic location (i.e., Cholla Area, Miller Peak Area) identified within the District.

The area-related activity inventory system differs markedly from the method used for the route-related activities. The route-related system identifies a specific route first and later defines the activities available there. The area-related system identifies the activity first and then a decision is made concerning what information could and should be provided about that activity. Because of the unique characteristics of area-related activities, each activity was handled on an individual basis. For example, Berry Picking, a subdivision of the Identification/Gathering/Collecting section in the sample text (see buff section), is an activity that can take place in numerous places on the National Forest. The designation of specific berry picking locations should generally be avoided because of a possible depletion of the resource at recommended locations. The outline for berry picking included information about the species, identifying characteristics, and habitat descriptions. This information provides the recreationist with sufficient knowledge to locate and identify berries, without suggesting specific locations.

The information included in the Hunting and Fishing portion of the ROG is included in the sample text. Although ROG does not recommend specific fishing locations, it does provide information about the physical characteristics of the fishable streams and lakes. The same is true for hunting areas. It should be noted that other agencies have the responsibility for administering a particular activity (i.e., hunting, fishing), information to be printed in the ROG should be approved by that agency.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE FORMAT

For uniformity and recognizability by the public, the Recreation Opportunity Guide adheres to a format which should be duplicated by other Regions/Forests/Districts in the production of their Guide. The Guide is organized as follows:

How to Use the Guide

Directions are inserted at the beginning of the ROG to provide the user with a brief introduction to the text's format. Although the Sample Ranger District may recommend the addition of a full time visitor information specialist to help disseminate recreation opportunity information, many Forests and Districts do not have funding available for additional personnel. For this reason, the user, in many cases, will need to interpret and utilize the ROG text without assistance. This section of your ROG should include a simple explanation of the classes (include chart with spectrum scale). The How to Use section of the text can help alleviate problems by enabling the recreationist to use the ROG unassisted. While we do not recommend developing the Guide as bilingual, you may wish to develop the "How to Use" section as such if you have bilingual problems on your District.

Table of Contents

As stated earlier, the sample Ranger District ROG was divided into 16 activity units (Downhill Skiing, Boating, Fishing, etc.). The table of contents at the beginning of the text provides an indexing of all activity units selected for inclusion in the ROG. When referring to the sample text, note that the activities are identified by a corresponding abbreviation (Cross-country Skiing--XC) instead of the usual page numbering system. By using this abbreviation indexing system, the users can easily refer to their activity interest.

Introductory Information

Every activity section within ROG is prefaced by an introduction page and table of contents. The introduction page presents an overview of the activity being discussed. Introductory material can include specific statements concerning the activity as it pertains to the District ("There are over 500 miles of trails on the Sample Ranger District. . . ."); information relaying Forest policies and/or regulations ("Tree cutting is prohibited in developed campgrounds. . . ."); or data recommending safety or environmental tips for proper use of the National Forest lands ("Do not tie horses to live trees for extended periods. . . ."). The introduction pages use graphic illustrations of the activities to enhance the visual layout of the publication. We do not presently have a graphics package available for use in the production of Recreation Guides. We would like to develop one and would welcome any illustrations that you might like to contribute. The introductory pages are identified by the activity abbreviation prefix (i.e., Hiking--H) and are numbered in sequence: H 1, H 2, H 3, etc.

Activity Page Identification

The page identification sequence is dependent on the format used for an activity. Three page numbering systems are:

1. The activity locations are subdivided by geographic AREA. Cholla Area, Miller Peak Area, etc.,), and/or,

2. The activity itself is subdivided (Identification/Gathering divided in categories--Christmas Tree Cutting, Firewood Gathering, and Berry Picking), or,

3. The activity is not subdivided (Hunting).

The first method utilizes a 100 to 500 numbering series. Each area is identified by a 100 digit number series (more could be added):

Cholla Creek Area (pages 100-199)

Miller Peak Area (pages 200-299), etc.

Activity pages are identified by an abbreviation prefix (e.g., HIKING--H) and a page number corresponding to the AREA in which the activity is located:

HIKING (H)	Page
Cholla Creek Area (pages 100-199)	
Cedar Butte Trail	H 101
Cholla Peak Trail	H 102
North Fork Howard Creek Trail #322	H 103
Miller Peak area (Pages 200-299)	
Miller Peak Divide Trail #512	H 201

This 100-based system permits adding activity locations (e.g., newly constructed hiking trails) within AREAS. Examples of this page numbering approach are found in the sample text.

The second method of numbering also uses a 100-based system; however, the 100 digits correspond to subdivisions within an activity rather than geographic AREAS. For example, the activity identified as Identification/Gathering in the sample text is divided into three subheadings: Christmas Tree Cutting, Firewood Gathering, and Berry Picking. Each of these subdivisions is distinguished by a 100-based digit as indicated below:

IDENTIFICATION/GATHERING (IG)	Page
Christmas Tree Cutting (pages 100-199)	IG 101
Firewood Gathering (Pages 200-299)	IG 201
Ratings for dried firewood	IG 205
Nuts/Berry Picking (pages 300-399)	
Blackberry	IG 302
Rose Hip	IG 304
Pinon nut	IG 306

The third method is used whenever information is presented in a continuous narrative. An example is found in the Hunting section of the sample text where the pages are numbered as follows:

HUNTING (HT)	Page
Big Game Hunting	
Elk	HT 101
Mule Deer	HT 102
Whitetail Deer	HT 103
Javelina	HT 104

Route-Related Activity Pages

After inventorying a route, the manager is prepared to organize information for final activity page production.

A style sheet illustrating final page layout is shown in The Inventory Process section. Note that the format provides for either a two-column or across-page typing for flexibility in handling different types of activity pages. It also permits flexibility in location of a sketch map. The sketch map indicating the routes, location, access points, and facilities, although drawn to approximate scale, provides the user with detailed information not illustrated on most recreation maps.

Site-Related Activity Pages

Special site-related inventory worksheets (see Inventory Process section), were designed to simplify the inventory process (for developed sites), i.e., campground and picnic sites.

Area-Related Activity Pages

Because it is not practical to compile information for area-related activities into one standardized format, final page formats are treated individually. For example, the Berry Picking section of the text includes species name, identifying characteristics, habitat types, etc., but no specific locations were identified for picking berries to prevent possible over-harvesting of an area. The same approach is used for activities such as Hunting and Fishing, although a sketch map of fishing areas can be included (see sample text). The format for these activities is illustrated on the style sheet included in The Inventory Process section.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

A recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) scale will be shown with each activity description. This scale will identify the classification of the land surrounding each activity location.

Map Reproduction

A simple sketch map is included on several activity pages (see Hiking, Fishing, and Horse Pack/Saddle examples) to illustrate location and access. These maps were drawn on acetate film with black ink. Standard symbols were used for these maps. Be selective in the information added to avoid "cluttering."

Several special maps are shown in various sections of the sample text. The maps (see Camping and Picnicking) were drawn on acetate film; press-on lettering and shading film were utilized in some instances. These maps were then transferred to photographic paper to insure clean reproductions.

Bibliography

A bibliography follows the Activity Pages in the ROG. It references pertinent brochures, books, maps, and films by author or publishing agency.

The bibliography is intended to assist in production of a Recreation Opportunity Guide and to assist visitors seeking additional information about recreation activities or safety; it is not meant to encompass all of the information published about recreation and recreation safety.

Appendix

A standard list illustrates the activity symbols approved for use in the Forest Service.

Final Activity Page Production and Layout

As the inventories are completed for the various activities the information will be extracted and placed upon activity pages. USDA regulations mandate the format for the sheets which are illustrated on the Style Sheet layout and the Sample Text (buff) pages contained herein. The style sheet shown is a 2-column layout which may be combined for full page width text or graphics. Note that the right and left margins are equal, allowing for back-to-back reproduction and 3-hole punching and binding.

Not all of the information assembled in the inventory will alway be included on the activity page, some may be held as background information. The text and graphics must be developed to provide the necessary information and still be as clear and simple as possible. Whenever possible, the material should be contained on the front and back of a single sheet, but the front and back of the second sheet may be used if necessary.

Maps and other graphic illustrations should be composed to read from the bottom and/or right margins. North on maps should be to the top or left of the sheet. Always include a bar scale for distance on maps because the reproduction process will usually reduce the copy by as much as 20 percent from the original. It is anticipated that the ROG activity pages may be prepared on special blueline grid sheets which are oversized, and will then be reproduced on the smaller 8½"x11" style sheets shown herein. Prepare all graphics with this in mind.

Photographs and drawings used in the ROG should be selected carefully for their ability to enhance the text, and their suitability for clear reproduction. Black and white copy negatives can be made from sharp and clear colored slides or negatives which are 35mm or larger. Drawings are best labeled using rub-on or stick-on materials. If you do not have such materials on hand, contact the SO or RO for suggestions or assistance. Some Units have skilled illustrators available and they should be used whenever possible to enhance the quality of our Guides.

The final page layout for activities, as shown on the style sheet in the Inventory Process section, has an activity logo and sketch map attached. To facilitate the cutting and pasting necessary in final page preparation, the layout of individual pages can be done on a light table. Graph paper secured to the light table beneath the pages insures proper alinement. Camera ready art will be made available from the Regional Office to eliminate the need for professional drafting on the District.

REVIEW, DISTRIBUTING, AND PRINTING

Publications Control, Review, and Approval

FSM 1631, Official Manuscripts for Publication explains the Forest Service publications control system. A first edition of a Recreation Opportunity Guide must be submitted on form FS-1600-6 (5/83) Publication Proposal, to the Regional Publications Control Officer for review and approval. Prior to printing, Forests should be sure the proposals are reviewed by the Forest Supervisor and the Recreation Staff in the RO before submitting to the Office of Information. Please note that anything for public consumption must be approved before it is produced, printed, duplicated or otherwise copied and distributed. This applies whether it is one copy or a thousand, map, flyer, single sheet, or multi-page publication. Following implementation of a ROG, minor revisions of pages should be submitted to the publications control officer through the Forest Supervisor with a form FS-1600-6, but do not require a full scale review and approval.

Public Safety and Potential Liability of the Forest Service

As in most Forest Service recreation management activities, there is a duty and potential liability toward users associated with the ROG. The following general considerations and principles are abstracted from Office of General Counsel memoranda to the Chief, August 25, 1977 and January 25, 1978:

1. A user of the ROG and the recreation opportunities it describes, is an invitee to National Forest lands and facilities.

2. As a user, the government owes him the duty to exercise ordinary care and prudence in rendering trails, facilities, etc., safe and to warn of unknown or unusual hazards or danger.

3. Considering the natural conditions of National Forest lands, warnings of dangers need only apply to situations involving extreme hazard or those which might not be normally anticipated by the average prudent visitor. Depending on the hazard, such warnings could be generally described on maps or information bulletins (e.g., "poisonous snakes are common") or described at ranger stations or public information centers (e.g., "fire danger extreme"--), or in rare cases at the site (e.g., "danger--contaminated water").

4. If the government undertakes to affirmatively warn users of hazards, it must exercise ordinary care to do the job accurately.

5. There is generally no duty to sign water sources found on public lands, unless these sources are expressly, or impliedly, held out to the public as potential drinking water, are so located that a reasonable person might believe they were drinking water sources (such as a developed spring in a campground), or constitute an extraordinary risk to health or safety. It is recommended that we disclaim the potability of water by general warnings on maps and in other printed information.

Distribution of Guide Texts

After information is organized in final form and transferred to the format for final ROG pages, the text is ready to print. Before making plans for printing, however, logistics for distributing the Guide must be considered and a determination made of the number of texts to print. Distribution decisions depend on the project budget and the number of locations where the Guide will be available to the public.

In some instances the ROG will be replacing special publications previously in use. The flexibility of the system allows for selecting desired activity pages, coupling them together with an introductory text (and possibly a key map), preassembling under an appropriate cover, and distributing them in lieu of the special map or pamphlet. This procedure will not eliminate all need for special publications, but it can be very helpful in reducing the time and effort for informing the public through printed materials.

Limiting placement of Guides to Forest Service offices has distinct advantages; the Forest Service can exercise more control over its maintenance and updating as well as establishing a closer working relationship with the general public. At present, ROG will be placed only in Forest Service offices. However, to facilitate its use by the public, evening and weekend office hours could be established. Two copies of every page in each District's text will be furnished the Regional Office of Information for their use. In the future, it may be desirable to make the Guide available in public libraries, at other agency offices, chambers of commerce, or sporting goods stores.

Reproductions of Activity Pages for the Public

To get maximum value from the ROG, the public should be able to quickly get copies of activity pages. However, the number of activity pages needed cannot be easily determined until ROG has been implemented. Once it is in use, additional activity pages in highest demand will be ordered through Office of Information. (Reproduction on District copy machines is to be discouraged due to the higher costs).

Reproduction of Guide Texts

Subsequent to determination of text distribution, plans for printing should be arranged with the RO Office of Information. There will be no exceptions.

At some future date it may be possible to enter the ROG in an electronic data bank such as FLIPS. Based upon that system, it would be possible to make the information available to the public by means of special terminals located in reception areas and visitor centers.

Page Protection

Since the ROG text is intended for public use, considerable wear of the pages can be expected. To avoid deterioration, some form of page protection is recommended. Several options are available for increasing the longevity of each page, thus reducing the need for replacement:

1. Print the text on stiff, durable paper stock.
2. Laminate individual pages.
3. Insert pages into plastic folders or sleeves.
4. Reinforce binding edge with mylar tape.
5. Discard worn pages and replace with new copies.

Advantages, disadvantages, and cost estimates for several protection methods are:

1. Document Protector

Description:
Document protector "matt finish"
11 x 8½, 3-hole punch
G.S.A. #7510-00-233-7686
Cost 3½¢ each in lots of 50 (1980 cost estimate).

Source:
G.S.A.

Advantages:
- a. Low cost per unit.
- b. Matt finish reduces glare.
- c. Easier accessibility for information changes.

Disadvantages:
- a. Increased bulk of the notebook.
- b. Easier for unauthorized removal of printed pages.
- c. Limited service life.
- d. Does not have a "finished" effect.
- e. Material retains scratch and crease marks.

2. Page Lamination (done in the printing process)

Description:
Type 1: Page lamination. Pages are laminated with plastic film, collated, and punched with three holes. The approximate cost is 30¢ each (1978 cost estimate).

Advantages:
- a. Reduces notebook bulk as compared to vinyl envelopes or page protectors.
- b. Displays a "finished" effect.
- c. Pages are not removable unless notebook is opened.

Disadvantages:
- a. High cost per page.
- b. All pages corrected or changed must be relaminated.
- c. Costs more to print smaller amounts; set-up cost is high.
- d. Duplicating extra notebooks is expensive.
- e. More difficult to make change on pages.

3. Transparent Vinyl Envelopes

Description:
Type 1: Transparent vinyl envelope
9 1/8 x 11 1/4, style R B 3
Custom 8 gage, 3-hole punch
Opening along vertical axis
Cost is 18¢ each in lots of 2500 (1978 cost estimate).

Source:
*20th Century Plastics, Inc.
3628 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90016
(213) 299-2777

Description:
Type 2: Transparent vinyl envelopes
8 7/8 x 11 1/4, style #310
3-hole punch, opening along vertical axis; edges separate on sides where holes are located
Cost is 24¢ each in lots of 2500 (1978 cost estimate).

Source:
*Vinylope Co., Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 487-1891

***The use of trade, firm, or corporation names in this publication is for the information and convenience of the reader. It does not constitute an official endorsement or approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable.**

Regardless of the method of page preservation, enclosing the Guide in a hard back cover will further protect the activity pages and reduce the need for page replacement or maintenance. A three-ring notebook should be used to bind the text together and facilitate making additions or modifications. The binder selected for use in Region 3 is the McBee Customizer No. 9520, or equal.

The ROG binder cover inserts are being printed on 65 lb. cover stock. These can be inserted in the cover pockets and provides the public with a readily recognizable symbol to associate with the Recreation Opportunity Guide. These ROG-INSTRUCTIONS are to be maintained in the same type binder with slightly different inserts in the cover pockets.

In-Service Training

After the Guides are organized and assembled, but before the ROG is ready for implementation, there should be a training session for personnel who will have involvement with the public concerning its use. The main objective of the session would be to acquaint persons with the overall system of the Recreation Opportunity Guide. The session should explain and demonstrate the practical application of the Guide as a tool in providing the public with knowledge of a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. A system for monitoring and updating information in the ROG should also be included in the session. Public feedback is an important tool in updating and maintaining the information contained in the system.

The Updating Process

Some information in the Guide will become outdated due to changes in policy, environmental factors, routes, area designations, or other elements. District recreation personnel should encourage input from many sources, including Timber, Range, Wildlife, Engineering, Fire, etc. to obtain updated information. External sources such as special interest groups and the general public should be encouraged to contribute revised information to maintain the Guide.

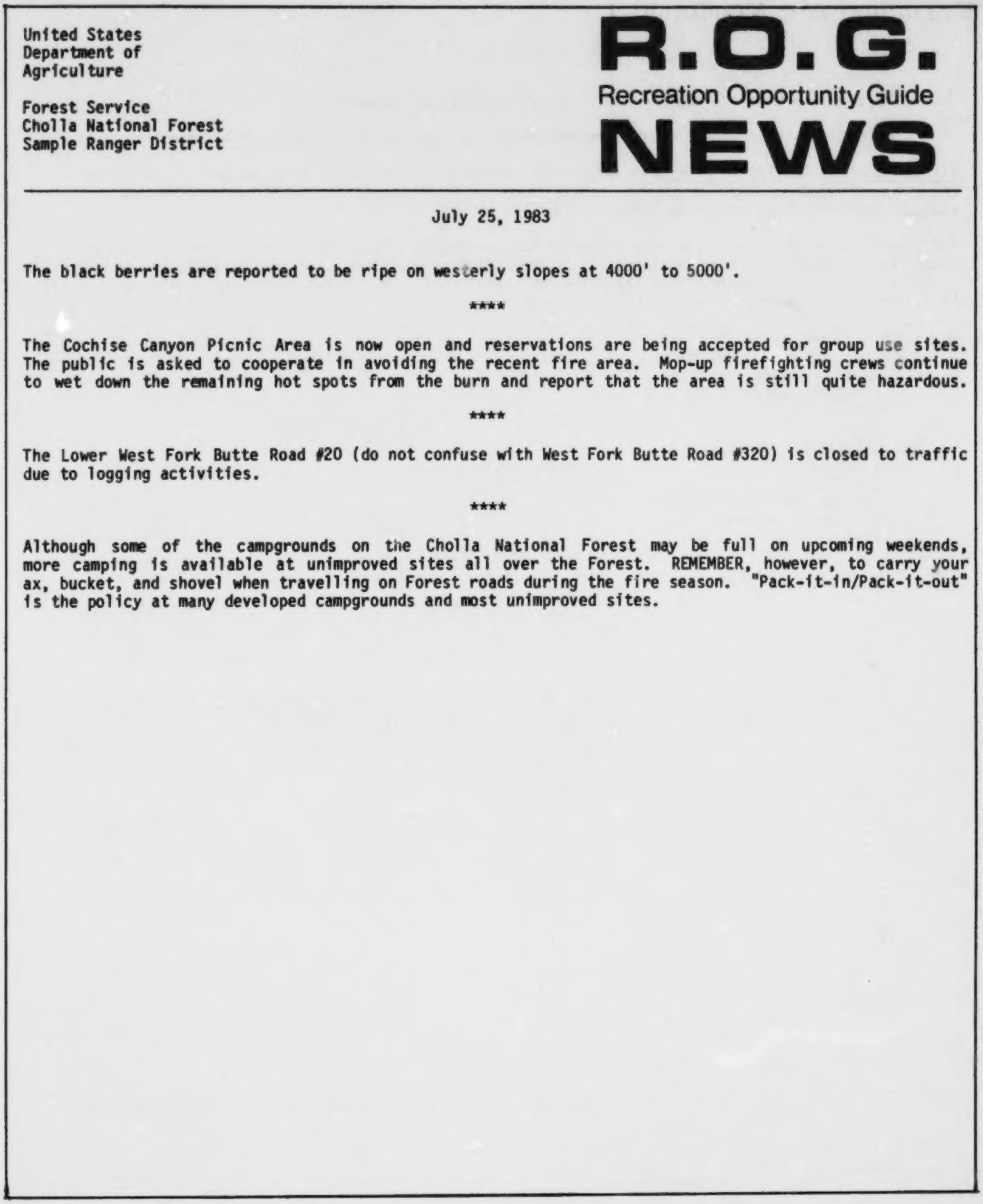
Some revisions will be of a short-term nature; others will be permanent. Short-term updating applies to temporary revision of a recreation opportunity. Important changes affecting recreationists on a certain trail or road, for example, are itemized in the short term update. A note can be attached to an activity page specifying the changes.

Temporary changes will be itemized in a periodic news update sheet called the "ROG News" (figure 1). This is distributed to all Guide locations and inserted on the inside cover of the ROG text. It is not intended that this sheet be distributed to the general public. It should provide quick notice of changes or temporary conditions until conditions change or updates of the text sheets can reflect the information. The News provides information on temporary closures or other changes related to recreation opportunities. This news should be coordinated with public news releases and periodic recreation reports released to the news media by the Forest Public Information Officer or the Office of Information. In some instances it could be used in lieu of those releases.

Long-term updating of information is a permanent revision done periodically. Revisions, additions, or deletions can be made on the master copy of the Guide. Reprinting will be handled by the Regional Office, Office of Information.

It is important to keep the Guide maintained and updated once it is implemented. Time may need to be budgeted for maintenance of the ROG. A ROG coordinator should be assigned on each Forest and District. If the Guide is unattended over long periods of time, the public will sense a lack of credibility from incorrect information and decrease their use of the Guide.

To indicate the date of current updates, code the activity pages by placing month and year numbers in parenthesis in the lower right corner of each, i.e., (10/83). Be sure copies of the update information are sent to the Regional Office, Office of Information.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Cholla National Forest
Sample Ranger District

R.O.G.
Recreation Opportunity Guide
NEWS

July 25, 1983

The black berries are reported to be ripe on westerly slopes at 4000' to 5000'.

****

The Cochise Canyon Picnic Area is now open and reservations are being accepted for group use sites. The public is asked to cooperate in avoiding the recent fire area. Mop-up firefighting crews continue to wet down the remaining hot spots from the burn and report that the area is still quite hazardous.

****

The Lower West Fork Butte Road #20 (do not confuse with West Fork Butte Road #320) is closed to traffic due to logging activities.

****

Although some of the campgrounds on the Cholla National Forest may be full on upcoming weekends, more camping is available at unimproved sites all over the Forest. REMEMBER, however, to carry your ax, bucket, and shovel when travelling on Forest roads during the fire season. "Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out" is the policy at many developed campgrounds and most unimproved sites.

Figure 3. Example of "ROG News" Used for Short-term Updating

Evaluating and Monitoring

Two methods to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the Guide are:

1. Pretest and posttest results are compared from the "Visitor Contact Tabulation Worksheet."

Visitor Contact Tabulation Worksheet (figure 4) maintains a cumulative count sample of recreation inquiries at District and Forest information centers. Each inquiry is tallied separately even in instances where multiple questions were asked by one person.

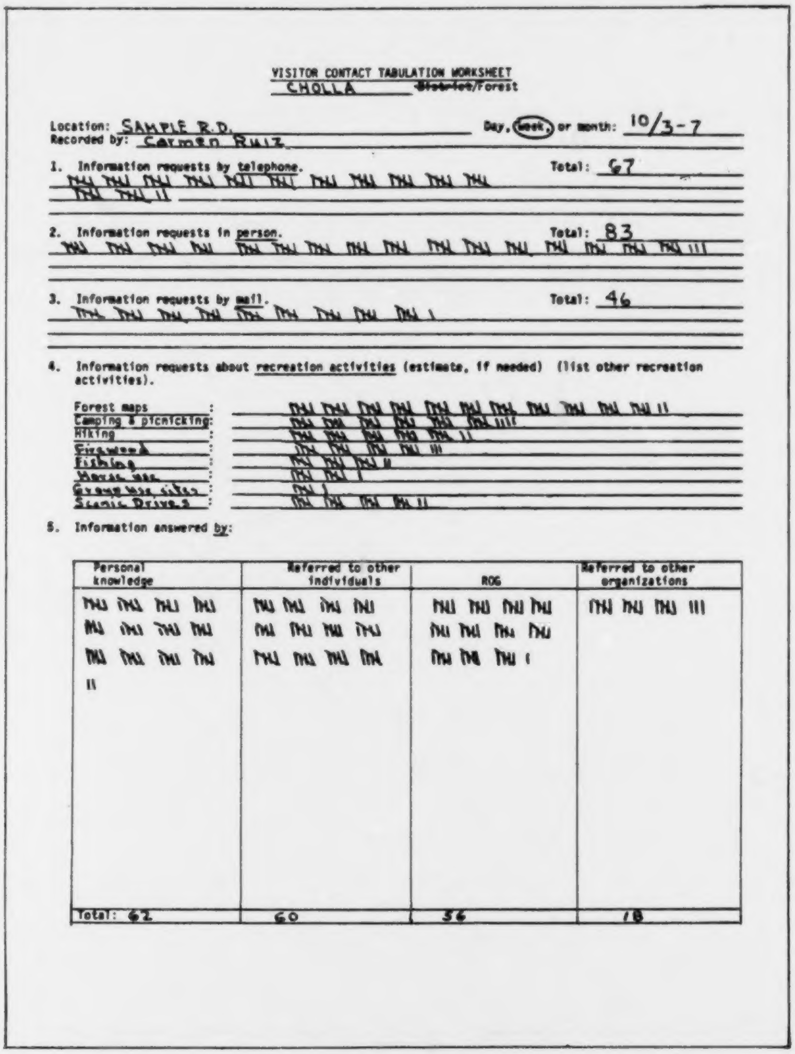
The tabulation method should be used prior to implementation of the ROG to obtain pretest results. These results would roughly identify the public's informational needs and aid in selection of activities to be included in the Guide. Once the Guide is implemented, the tabulation method should be used again to sample and indicate the Guide's effectiveness.

The items tallied on the form are:

a. Means by which inquiries are made (items 1, 2, and 3).

b. Information requested (item 4).

c. How and from what source information is provided (item 5).



VISITOR CONTACT TABULATION WORKSHEET
CHOLLA ~~District~~/Forest

Location: SAMPLE R.D. Day, [✓ week,] or month: 10/3-7
Recorded by: Carmen Ruiz

1. Information requests by telephone. Total: 67

2. Information requests in person. Total: 83

3. Information requests by mail. Total: 46

4. Information requests about recreation activities (estimate, if needed) (list other recreation activities).

Forest maps :
Camping & picnicking:
Hiking :
Firewood :
Fishing :
Horse use :
Group use sites :
Scenic Drives :

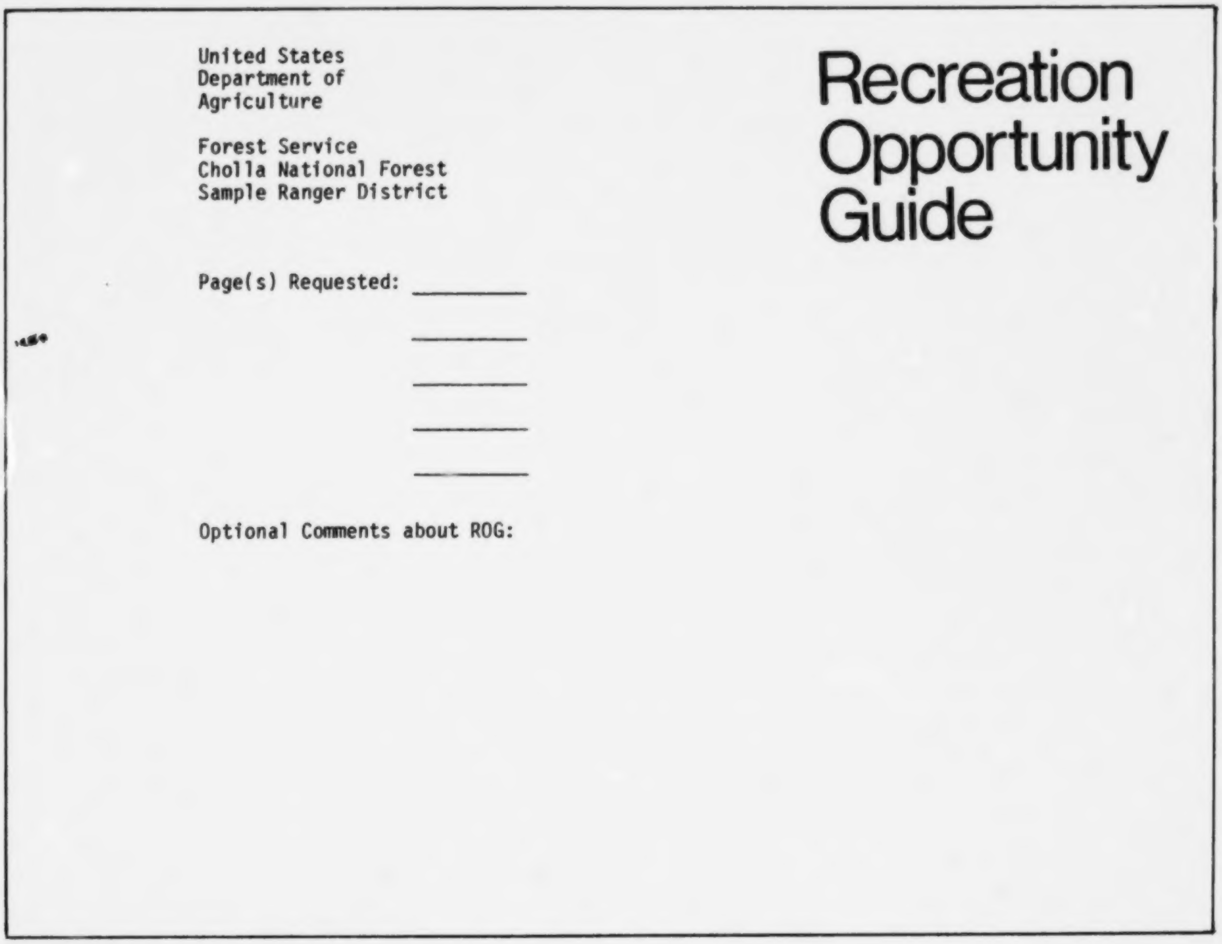
5. Information answered by:

Personal knowledge	Referred to other individuals	ROG	Referred to other organizations
Total: 62	60	56	18

Figure 4. Visitor contact tabulation worksheet.

2. The results from "Page Request Forms" are also used as an evaluation measure (figure 5).

Page request forms are a method of requesting copies of activity pages from the Guide by the public and provide means to determine activity pages requested most.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Cholla National Forest
Sample Ranger District

Recreation Opportunity Guide

Page(s) Requested: ________
____
____
____
____

Optional Comments about ROG:

Figure 5.--ROG page request form (5½"x8½")

The Inventory Process

Introduction

This section primarily describes an inventory system for trails and roads and related resources as examples and basis for information made available in a Recreation Opportunity Guide. It provides understanding and procedures necessary for an analysis and assessment, specifically of route-related resources, problems, and concerns, but is flexible enough to allow for the subjective evaluations that best characterize specific conditions on a given District/Forest for other activities in the site and area-related categories. Although these instructions are by no means exhaustive, they hopefully will provide a framework for additional thought concerned with developing a standardized inventory process for dispersed recreational routes and activities.

It is not intended that the inventory process, or the ROG itself, be completed in one big project effort. Rather, it should be addressed in a series of steps, i.e., inventory one trail and carry it through to completed ROG information sheet. Then proceed to another as time and opportunity permit. In this manner, portions can be in use as others are being prepared.

A completed route inventory report documents a wide spectrum of trail and road information. The system necessitates data gathering and recording in six major sections:

- Route Inventory Worksheet
- Narrative
- Sketch Map
- Work Map
- Photographic Documentation
- Management Notes

The broad base of information needed in a route inventory often requires input from individuals other than the person(s) completing the report. In most cases, these responses are subjective in nature and may need verification in order to comply with the goal of providing accurate and reliable data in a consistent manner.

In addition to obtaining information for the Recreation Opportunity Guide, a route inventory assists District/Forest personnel in management of trails, roads, and associated resources. Completed inventories provide information and become management tools in the following ways:

1. Document route-related recreation and special attractions related to trails and roads.

2. Systematically assemble files on current route locations, conditions, and utilization for a given District/Forest.

3. Provide information necessary to evaluate a trail for possible candidacy to the National Recreation Trails System.

4. Make public, through the ROG or other means, the fact that certain routes are overused, under alteration, or exhibit some other situation the public should know of.

Supplies

To complete a route inventory, the following supplies will be needed:

- Route inventory worksheet with accompanying equipment and materials:
    - Graph paper for sketch map
    - Topographic work map
    - Camera and film for photo documentation
    - Paper and/or tape recorder for narrative and management notes, including extra tape and batteries
- Forest recreation map
- Compass
- Distance measuring wheel
- Abney or clinometer (slope gradient measuring device)
- Altimeter
- Pens, pencils, markers and scratch paper
- Small tape measure
- Plastic flagging tape (for marking areas requiring attention)

Process

The process suggested for completing an inventory is as follows:

A. Determine existing routes on the District/Forest.

B. Assign routes to Forest or volunteer personnel.

C. Study the inventory process.

D. Collect supplies and obtain logistic support.

E. Proceed with field inventory of route (by hiking, horseback, motorcycle, etc.)

Depending on length of route and other factors, documentation and collection of data may be completed in one day, individual sections done on a returning day basis, or a continued field stay until route has been fully inventoried.

F. Complete all sections of the form; organize data, comments, and recommendations:

- Route Inventory Worksheet
- Narrative
- Sketch map
- Work map
- Photographic documentation
- Management notes

G. Return completed worksheet to appropriate District/Forest for filing.

H. Prepare final ROG activity pages from completed worksheet (for hiking, horseback, motorcycle, cross-country skiing, and/or other activities.)

Completing a Route Inventory Worksheet

Following is an explanation of the items to be recorded in the route inventory worksheet (see sample of completed form, page 35). Note: Information to complete some items on the worksheet: may not be available to person(s) making inventory, if not leave blank.

Inventoried by Name, Title, and Date - self explanatory.

Organization - What organization is represented by the person(s) making the inventory (Forest Service, Wilderness Institute, BSA, etc.)

Weather Conditions During Survey - self-explanatory

1. Name - the assigned name of the trail or road. If no name is available then use a name that relates the route geographically to the area. Identify as either a trail or a road.

   Number - the assigned Forest Service (or other agency) number. Leave blank if not available.

2. Location - this item presents the route location in general geographic terms.

   a. Forest - the Forest(s) in which located.

   b. District - the District(s) in which located.

   c. Recreation Area - the specific planning unit or recreation experience unit name(s) assigned by the Forest Service.

   d. General location within recreation area - give the general location the total route occupies within the planning unit(s). For example: located in the NW section of Eagle Peak area.

   e. Is route a section of a continuing trail or road - this indicates whether it begins and ends within the limits of this inventory or is a segment of a longer route.

   f. If yes, enter the total length of the entire route, in both miles and kilometers.

   g. Is route all or in part within Wilderness? Yes or no.

   h. If yes, enter distance from trailhead to wilderness boundary in both miles and kilometers.

   i. Begins at - brief description of the starting point. Examples may be trailhead location, junction with other trail or road or point on stream or lake.

   j., k., l. Township, Range, Section - A legal description of the location of the route starting point.

   m. Dot - The quarter-section of the starting point.

   n. Route ends at - A brief word description of the ending point.

   o., p., q. Township, Range, Section - A legal description of the location of the ending point.

   r. Dot - The quarter-section of the ending point.

   s. USGS map(s) - The United States Geological Survey topographic map(s) that illustrates the area in which located.

3. Trailhead location and access narrative information -

   Access #1 - A description of the primary access to a trail or primitive road. The narration should contain brief information concerning mileages, junctions, and signs on major highways, state, county, and Forest Service roads, etc. Avoid referring to access points with "first turn on the left," or "at the grocery store" types of explanations. If the route has more than one possible beginning/ending point, this supplementary information should be furnished for those additional accesses in the space provided. They should be referred to as Access #2, Access #3, etc. (if additional space is needed insert page using same format).

Facilities - A brief indication of trailhead facilities for each access point. Additional information or clarification may be provided in the "Narrative" section.

a. Water - Is there a developed and monitored drinking water source available at or near the trailhead?

b. Toilets - Are there toilets available?

c. Stockloading Ramp - Is there a stockloading ramp located close to the trailhead?

d. Corral - Is there a stock holding pen or hitching facility nearby?

e. Parking - Is there adequate parking and turnaround area at or nearby?

f. Signing - Are signs adequate at the trailhead? Explanation should be provided in the "Narrative" section, as well as photographic documentation of the sign(s) inscription and condition.

g. Are there developed campgrounds within approximately .25 miles (0.5 km.)?

h. If so, enter campground name - Self explanatory.

i. Are there dispersed campsites within approximately .25 miles (0.5 km.) - A dispersed campsite is an unofficial occupancy site, usually identified by a fire ring, tent space, or parking area, but not designated as a campground.

j. If so, number of dispersed campsites - Self explanatory.

Sketch - A small scale map of the access route(s), trailhead location, junctions, parking, etc., for each access point to the route and referred to as Access #1, Access #2, etc. Standard symbols should be used to denote features and facilities. If possible trace or copy a section from the best map available.

Repeat for multiple access routes.

4. Route length, elevations, and gradients - Self explanatory. Measurements in both the English and Metric systems. A conversion table for feet and miles to meters and kilometers is provided on the Worksheet. Plot trail profile on graph provided. Select appropriate horizontal and vertical scales to fit space available.

5. & 6. Estimate the distance for each of the terrain types. Complete log of major features, additional information may be included in narrative section. Aspect - Indicate for major portions of the route in column provided. (For example, SE, W, SSE, etc.)

7. Number of locations water available on route - The number potable and nondrinking water sources (lake, spring, or stream) available along or in close proximity to the route.

8. Dispersed campsites along route - When available, Code-A-Site numbers should be included on the work map. Management problems or concerns may be discussed in the "Narrative." Person taking inventory should be familiar with Code-A-Site process that is used in the area.

9. Draw a heavy horizontal line through the PORTION of the season(s) that represents the normal seasonal usage for each category of travel listed. Indicate P (permit), NP (no-permit), as appropriate (when permits are required).

10. Total user volume - Estimated volume of route use on a seasonal basis.

11. Landownership - List ownership of the land the route or route section crosses, as well as the distances for each respective ownership. Any actual or potential trailhead access and/or route right-of-way restrictions, regulations, or conflicts should be noted, with further clarification provided in the "Narrative."

12. Route difficulty - A subjective, four-level rating of factors and conditions that affect the difficulty of a route, expressed by shading the appropriate section, or portions of sections. See "Method for Rating Route Difficulty" which follows.

13. Recreation attraction opportunities suggested - This is an appraisal of potential recreational experiences as well as established patterns of use. In addition to those listed, see Activity List elsewhere in this Guide. Enter E (existing), P (potential). If necessary, further clarification may be provided in the "Narrative."

14. Route conditions and maintenance problems - Comments on hazards and the quantity, location, and severity of maintenance problems, as well as recommendations about future management of the route.

    a. Estimate the distances the following general conditions exist - Estimates of the distance(s) of existing route conditions. If feasible, a "wheel" could be used for more precise measurement.

    b. Estimated average tread width - Self explanatory.

    c. Estimated average right-of-way clearance - Estimated average width and height available for convenient travel.

    d. Bridges and fords - Self explanatory.

    e. Signing - The number of signs that exist and the number that should be added, maintained, and corrected.

    f. Maintenance - A listing of maintenance problems. An adequate switchback should have a radius of approximately 8 feet or more. Those switchbacks shortened by "cuts" should also be noted. Problem brushy areas and major obstructions should be noted if they interfere with safe, normal and convenient use of that route. Alternative routes, "braided" trails, etc., often develop to avoid such obstructions. Problem eroded and boggy areas should be noted here, as well as on the Work and Sketch Maps. Other hazards, maintenance problems, and concerns that are potential hazards or problems to the user, or that result in resource damage, should also be noted. Discussion and comment concerning these problems should be provided in g. For further clarification and technical information consult the Trails Handbook, FSH 7709.12.

    g. Comment below on the quantity, location, and severity of existing hazards and maintenance problems - Self explanatory.

Illustration of Tread Width, Right-of-way Clearance Width, and Height

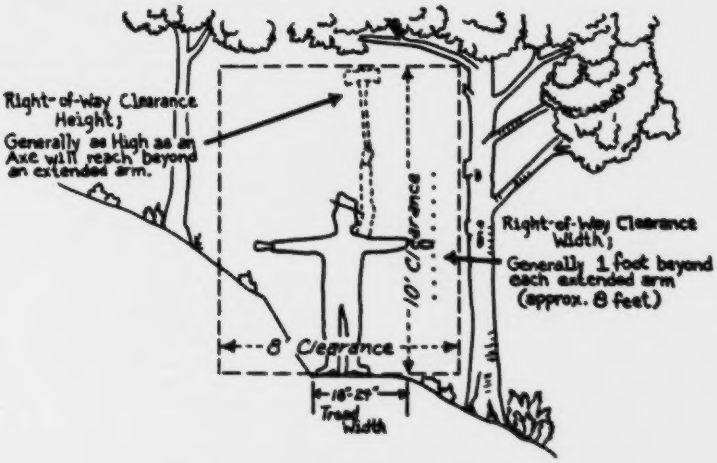

Right-of-way Clearance Height;
Generally as High as an Axe will reach beyond an extended arm.
10' Clearance
Right-of-Way Clearance Width;
Generally 1 foot beyond each extended arm (approx. 8 feet)
8' Clearance
18"-24"
Tread Width

Figure 6. Trail Clearance

METHOD FOR RATING ROUTE DIFFICULTY

Four categories for degree of difficulty are as follows:

EASY:

A. Mostly level with short uphill/downhill sections.
B. Excellent-to-good tread surface and clearance.
C. Absence of navigational difficulties/hazards.

MODERATE:

A. Level to sloping, with longer uphill/downhill sections.
B. Good-to-fair tread surface and clearance.
C. Minimal navigational difficulties/hazards.

MORE DIFFICULT:

A. Level-to-steep, with sustained uphill/downhill sections.
B. Fair-to-poor tread surface and clearance.
C. Short sections involving significant navigational difficulties/hazards.

MOST DIFFICULT:

A. Mostly steep with sustained uphill/downhill sections.
B. Poor-to-nonexistent tread surface and clearance.
C. Long sections involving significant navigational difficulties/hazards.

NARRATIVE

The narrative section is a dialogue that deals in a subjective manner with topics such as:

Attractions and Points of Interest

-Vegetation types
-Wildlife
-Scenic views
-Archeological sites
-Historic sites
-Geologic phenomena
-Significant land changes by man
-Forage
-Impressions and feelings
-Other recreation attractions, points of interest, and opportunities.

Considerations & Hazards

-Rock falls
-Water crossings
-Route finding problems
-Special equipment needs
-User conflicts
-Poisonous plants
-Insects, rodents, large animals
-Boggy, swampy, or overgrown areas
-Avalanche hazards
-Vertical fall exposure
-Sign locations and wording
-Standing dead snags
-Mileages
-Other

See the sample of completed Route Inventory worksheet for an illustration of ways some of the above topics might be narrated.

SKETCH MAP

The sketch map is a small scale representation of prominent landmarks and features that would assist the recreation user. It can be traced from the best map of appropriate scale available or drawn free-hand to approximate scale from a topographic map. Avoid clutter by including only essential details. Use standard map symbols (FSH 7109.13).

WORK MAP

The work map is a section of a USGS or Forest Service topographic map showing route, water, and dispersed campsite locations, route conditions and maintenance problems.

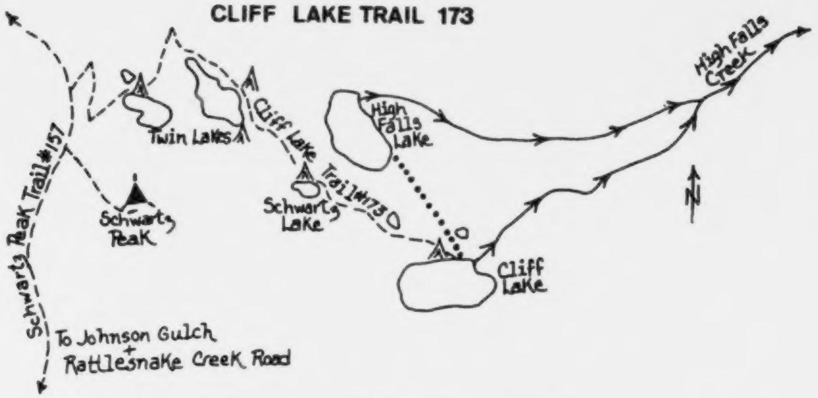

CLIFF LAKE TRAIL 173
Twin Lakes
Cliff Lake Trail #173
Schwartz Lake
Schwartz Peak
Schwartz Peak Trail #157
High Falls Lake
High Falls Creek
Cliff Lake
N
To Johnson Gulch + Rattlesnake Creek Road

Figure 7. Sketch Map Example

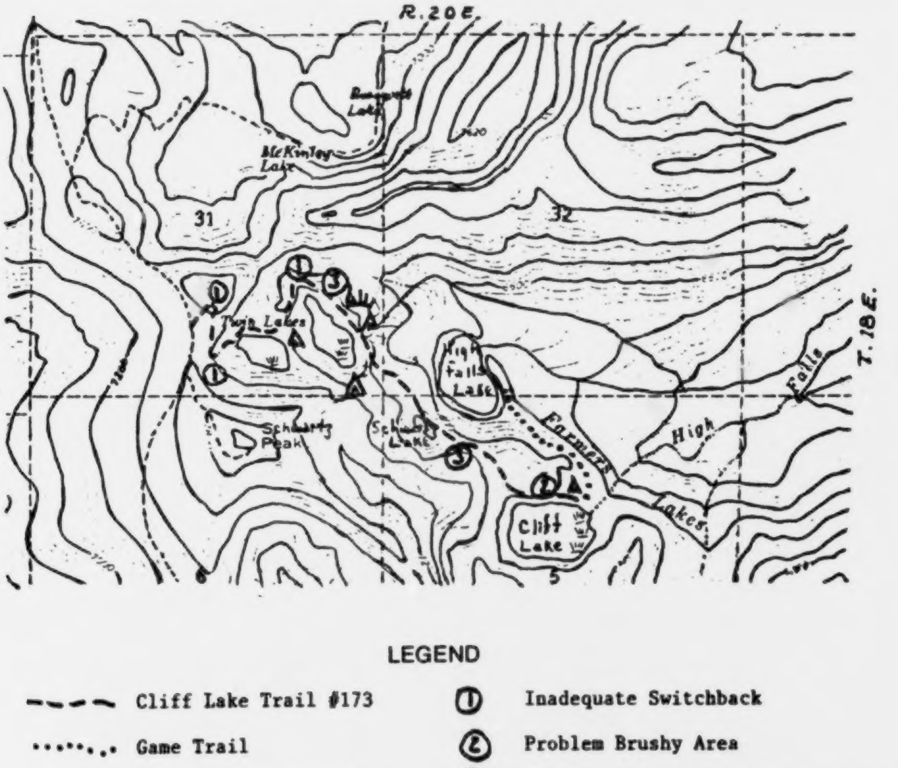

R.20E.
McKinley Lake
31
32
Twin Lakes
High Falls Lake
Schwartz Peak
Schwartz Lake
Farmers Lakes
High Falls
Cliff Lake
T.18E.
N
6
5
LEGEND
Cliff Lake Trail #173
Game Trail
Dispersed Campsites
Boggy Area
① Inadequate Switchback
② Problem Brushy Area
③ Obstructions (logs across trail)

Figure 8. Work Map Example

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of an inventory can be enhanced by pictures. Photographs of conditions, special problems, facilities, and other significant features not only provide additional information but may aid management decisions. Be sure photo is close enough to clearly show desired detail.
Some suggestions for photographic consideration are:

Trail Features

-Signs
-Parking area
-Loading ramp
-Camp/picnic sites

Route Conditions

-Tread surfaces
-Right-of-way conditions
-Switchbacks
-Vegetation types
-Bridges

Route Features

-Special attractions/scenic views
-Possible dispersed campsites
-Water (other than drinking) sources enroute
-Vegetation types

Special Problems

-Erosion
-Portions of route needing relocation
-Difficult water crossing
-Misuse by public
-Vegetation overgrowth
-Obstructions
-Possible hazards

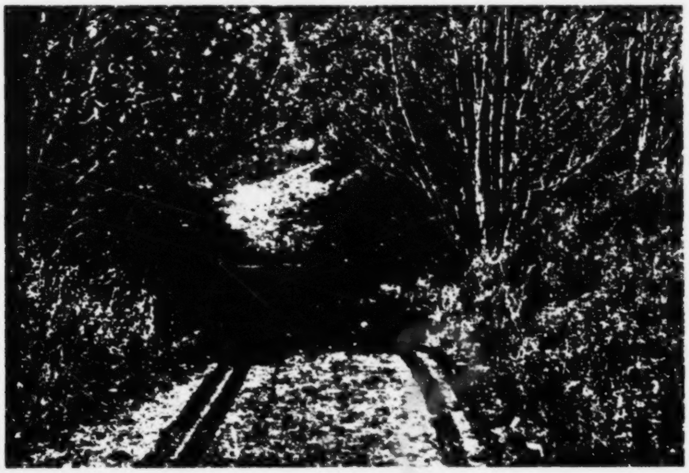


Figure 9. Example of a Water Crossing on a Primitive Road

Management Notes

This section is normally prepared by District personnel and allows the District/Forest to comment on aspects of a route or route section not included in the Inventory Form. Decisions regarding future use, a timetable for maintenance, and the funds available or allocated are examples of items that may be included and that should relate to management objectives for each route or route section inventoried.

An example follows:

MANAGEMENT NOTES

CLIFF LAKE TRAIL #173

LENGTH: 2.5 miles, 4.0 kilometers AREA: Rattlesnake/Gold Creek

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

A. Installation of a 24-inch culvert near Johnson Springs to reduce problems with this boggy area.

B. Relocate .5 mile of steep and badly eroded trail from the saddle above Upper Twin Lake down to the lake itself.

C. General maintenace of the route (deadfall, brush, switchbacks, water bars).

PROJECT	PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COST
A	Low	$300
B	Medium	$480
C	High	$184

COMPLETED:

D. General Maintenance, 7/21/78

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

Upgrade the trail suitable for horse and foot travel.

Sheet 1 of 5

Route Inventory Worksheet

Inventoried by Robert Smith, Rec. Tech. Date 7/13/84
Organization Forest Service
Weather conditions during survey Scattered clouds and cool.

1. Route Name Cliff Lake Trail Number 173

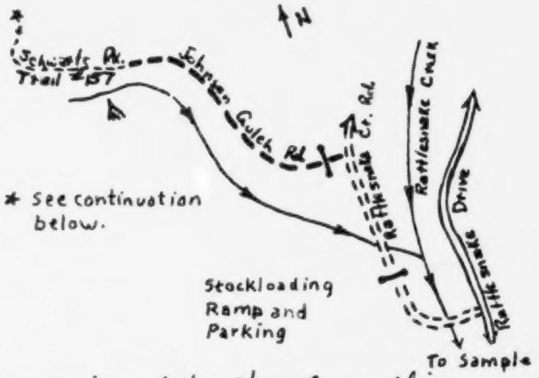
2. Route Location:

a. Forest Cholla b. District Sample c. Recreation Area Rattlesnake
d. General location within recreation area north-central part of the area
e. Is route a section of a continuing trail or road? ~~YES~~/NO
f. If yes, length of entire route —— miles —— km
g. Is route in wilderness? YES/NO
h. How far from trailhead to wilderness ______ miles ______ km
i. Begins at Junction with Schwartz Peak Trail #157, 6.4 miles, trailhead in saddle just north of Schwartz Peak.
j. Township 16N k. Range 22W l. Section 31 m. ⊞
n. Route ends at Cliff Lake, 2.5 miles southeast ⊞ of junction with Trail #157.
o. Township 16N p. Range 21W q. Section ______ r. ⊞
s. USGS map(s) Schwartz Peak, New Mexico.

3. Trailhead location and access information:
Access #1: Follow Rattlesnake Drive north of sample 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Rattlesnake Creek Road (unmarked gravel road), and follow .25 miles to locked gate. At .5 miles beyond gate proceed NW 2.5 miles up old Johnson Gulch Road to trailhead, Schwartz Peak Trail #157. (con't below)

Facilities	Yes	No
a. Drinking water		X
b. Toilets		X
c. Stockloading ramp	X	
d. Corral		
e. Parking	X	
f. Signing	X	
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 miles (.5 km) from trailhead		X
h. If so, name ______.		
i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	X	
j. If so, number of dispersed campsites 3.		

Sketch



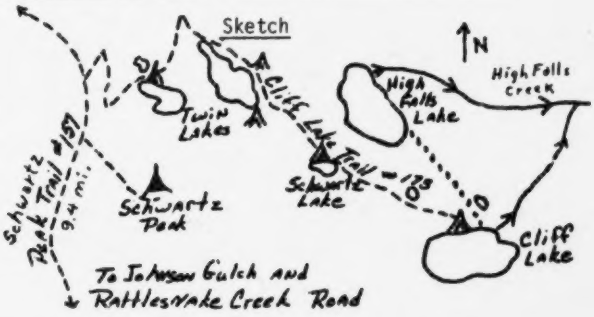
N
Schwartz Pk. Trail #157
Johnson Gulch Rd.
Rattlesnake Cr. Rd.
Rattlesnake Creek
Rattlesnake Drive
Stockloading Ramp and Parking
To Sample

* See continuation below.

Access #1 (continued). Cliff Lake Trail #173 begins 6.4 miles from this trailhead. Travel is by foot/horse from locked gate.

Facilities	Yes	No
a. Drinking Water		
b. Toilets		
c. Stockloading ramp		
d. Corral		
e. Parking		
f. Signing		
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead		
h. If so, name ______		

Sketch



N
Twin Lakes
Cliff Lake Trail #173
High Falls Lake
High Falls Creek
Schwartz Peak Trail #157
9.4 mi.
Schwartz Peak
Schwartz Lake
Cliff Lake
To Johnson Gulch and Rattlesnake Creek Road

i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead ___ ___

j. If so, number of dispersed campsites ________

Access #3 ________________

Facilities	Yes	No	Sketch
a. Drinking water	___	___	
b. Toilets	___	___	
c. Stockloading ramp	___	___	
d. Corral	___	___	
e. Parking	___	___	
f. Signing	___	___	
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
h. If so, name ________.			
i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
j. If so, number of dispersed campsites ________.			

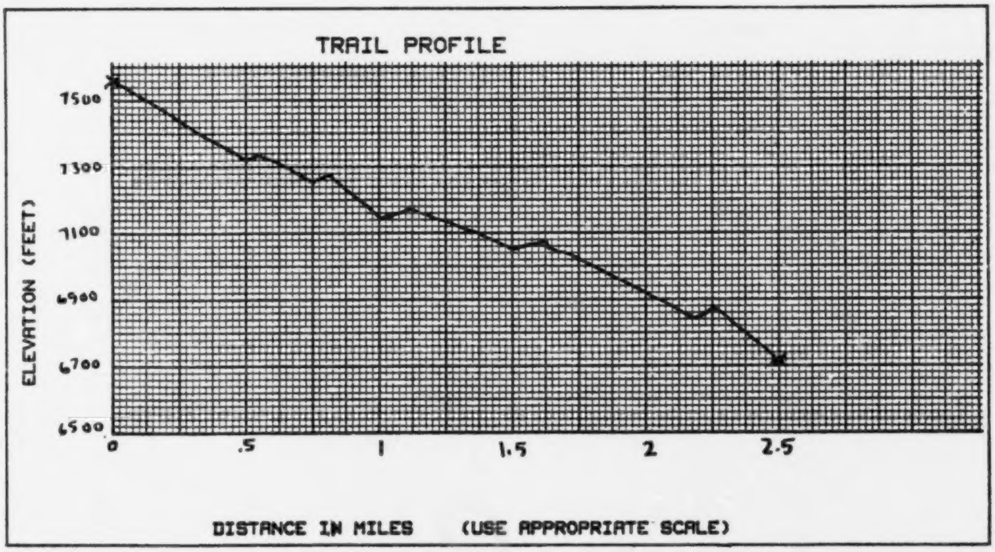
4. Route length, elevations, and gradients:

a. Length	2.5	miles	4	km
b. Starting elevation	7560	ft.	2304	m
c. Ending elevation	6720	ft.	2048	m
d. Highest elevation	7560	ft.	2304	m
e. Lowest elevation	___	ft.	___	m

f. Estimate the total distance for each of the gradient categories listed below:

0 - 10% grade	1.6	miles	2.6	km
10 - 15% grade	.4	mile~~s~~	.6	km
15 - 20% grade	___	miles	___	km
20 - 30% grade	.2	mile~~s~~	.3	km
30% + grade	.3	mile~~s~~	.5	km

Comments First .5 mile dropping to Upper Twin Lake is very steep and made up of loose rock.



5. and 6. Estimate the total distance for each of the route terrain types listed below:

a. Valley 10 miles 16 km b. Streambed ____ miles ____ km
c. Sidehill .7 miles 1.1 km d. Rolling hills ____ miles ____ km
e. Ridge .3 miles .5 km f. Plateau ____ miles ____ km
g. Downhill .5 miles .8 km h. ________ ____ miles ____ km

Comments First .5 mile dropping to Upper Twin Lakes is very steep and difficult. However, route provides excellent diversity of terrain types, in good to fair condition.

TRAIL LOG

LOCATION OR FEATURE	ELEV. FEET	HIKING TIME TODAY	MILES BETWEEN POINTS	MILES FROM START	ELEV. GAIN	ASPECT	NOTES

Add Additional Sheets As Needed

7. Number of locations of lake, spring, or stream water available on route:

Potable	Nonpotable	Comments
2		Upper Twin Lakes
1		Schwartz Lake
2		Cliff Lake

8. Dispersed campsites along trail and distance from trailhead:

a.	Name Twin Lakes (3)	.5 and .75	miles	.8	km
b.	Name Schwartz Lake	1.5	miles	2.4	km
c.	Name Cliff Lake	2.5	miles	4	km

9. Indicate travel use occuring during the season(s) by writing in (P) permitted or (NP) not permitted in columns provided:

MEANS OF TRAVEL	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Hiker	←	→	(NP)	
Pack and Saddle	←	→	(NP)	
Winter Ski and Snowshoe	→		(NP	←
Summer Motorized				
Winter Motorized				
Bicycle				
Wheelchair				
Livestock Driveway				

10. Total user volume: Heavy line through the portion of the season(s) represents normal user volume for each category listed:

	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	
Light				▬	Less than 30 users per season
Medium	▬		▬		30 to 300 users per season
Heavy		▬			300 to 1500 users per season
Extra Heavy					More than 1500 users per season

11. Landownership: list the landowner(s) and distance(s) that the route crosses; also, note any right-of-way restrictions or conflicts
Portion of Sec. 31 (approx. 1 mile) from Cliff Lake Trailhead, including Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, is owned by Valley Irrigation Co. Area adjacent to Cliff Lake (approx. .25 mile) in Sec. 5 owned by J. B. Cliff. Remaining 1.25 mile is N.F. No right-of-way restrictions or conflicts exist.

12. Route difficulty: shade the appropriate section or portions of sections to indicate the general degree of difficulty of the entire route.

EASY	MODERATE	MORE DIFFICULT	MOST DIFFICULT
	▨	▨	

13. Recreation opportunities suggested, (E) existing, (P) potential:

Day Hike		Motorized vehicle (under 40" wide)	
Backpack	E	Motorized vehicle (over 40" wide)	
Pack and Saddle	P	Bicycle	
Cross-country Ski/Snowshoe	E	Access to other attractions	
		Snowmobile	

Comments Day Hike: Distance from locked gate on Rattlesnake Road to Cliff Lake #173 trailhead is 9.4 miles (18.8 miles roundtrip); not a likely choice for a day hike because of need to hike 9.4 miles just to gain access to the trailhead.

Sheet 5 of 5

14. Route conditions and maintenance problems:

a. Estimate the distances the following general conditions exist:

Excellent	____ miles	____ km				
Good	1.5 miles	2.4 km	Abandoned	____ miles	____ km	
Fair	1.0 miles	1.6 km				

b. Estimated average tread width:

12 in. 30 cm

c. Estimated average right-of-way clearance:

Width 5 ft. 1.5 m Height 8 ft. 2.4 m

d. Bridges and fords:

Number of bridges	____ Adequate	____ Inadequate
Number of fords	____ Adequate	____ Inadequate

e. Signing: Total number existing 1
New signs needed 1

f. Maintenance: give the numbers of signs needing maintenance 1
signs needing correction ____

Switchbacks with inadequate radius	3	Eroded areas	1
Cut-across switchbacks		Boggy areas	1
Problem brushy areas	1	Permanent snowfields	
Major route obstructions	2	Rocky Areas	2

g. Comment below on the quantity, location, and severity of existing problems, noting their locations on the work map. Include your recommendations concerning management, signing, etc. (Add additional pages and information as needed).

The trail from Schwartz Lake to Cliff Lake is difficult to find because of an overgrowth of brush. There is a large log across the trail about .5 mile from Cliff Lake which poses little problem to hikers, but presents a barrier to horse use. This area also needs general maintenance.

Various campsites exist from Upper Twin to Cliff Lakes—many of which have caused resource damage because of overuse or poor location. Many of these have been broken up, leaving what I feel are the best 5 sites. Additional maintenance is needed, however. The sign illustrated below should be constructed and placed at the junction of Cliff Lake Trail #173 with Schwartz Peak Trail #157.

Cliff Lake Trail No. 173
Cliff Lake 2.5 miles (4.0 km)

Attach narrative, sketch map, photographs, special regulations, and other information as necessary for management.

NOTE: Metric conversion: 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 foot = .3048 meters
1 mile = 1.609 kilometers

Sheet 1 of 5

Route Inventory Worksheet

Inventoried by ____________________ Date ____________________
Organization ____
Weather conditions during survey ______________________________

1. Route Name ____________________ Number ______________

2. Route Location:

a. Forest ____________ b. District ____________ c. Recreation Area ________
d. General location within recreation area ______________________________
____
e. Is route a section of a continuing trail or road? YES/NO
f. If yes, length of entire route ______________miles ______________km
g. Is route in wilderness? YES/NO
h. How far from trailhead to wilderness ______________miles ______________km
i. Begins at ____
____
j. Township ________ k. Range ________ l. Section ________ m. ⊞
n. Route ends at ____
____
o. Township ________ p. Range ________ q. Section ________ r. ⊞
s. USGS map(s) ____

3. Trailhead location and access information:
Access #1: ____
____
____
____

Facilities	Yes	No	Sketch
a. Drinking water	___	___	
b. Toilets	___	___	
c. Stockloading ramp	___	___	
d. Corral	___	___	
e. Parking	___	___	
f. Signing	___	___	
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 miles (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
h. If so, name ____________.			
i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
j. If so, number of dispersed campsites ____________.			

Access #2 ____
____
____
____

Facilities	Yes	No	Sketch
a. Drinking Water	___	___	
b. Toilets	___	___	
c. Stockloading ramp	___	___	
d. Corral	___	___	
e. Parking	___	___	
f. Signing	___	___	
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
h. If so, name ____________			

i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___
j. If so, number of dispersed campsites ________________		

Access #3 ____

____

____

____

Facilities	Yes	No	Sketch
a. Drinking water	___	___	
b. Toilets	___	___	
c. Stockloading ramp	___	___	
d. Corral	___	___	
e. Parking	___	___	
f. Signing	___	___	
g. Developed campgrounds within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
h. If so, name ______________.			
i. Dispersed campsites within .25 mile (.5 km) from trailhead	___	___	
j. If so, number of dispersed campsites ________________.			

4. Route length, elevations, and gradients:

a. Length . . . . ______ miles ______ km

b. Starting elevation . . . . ______ ft. ______ m

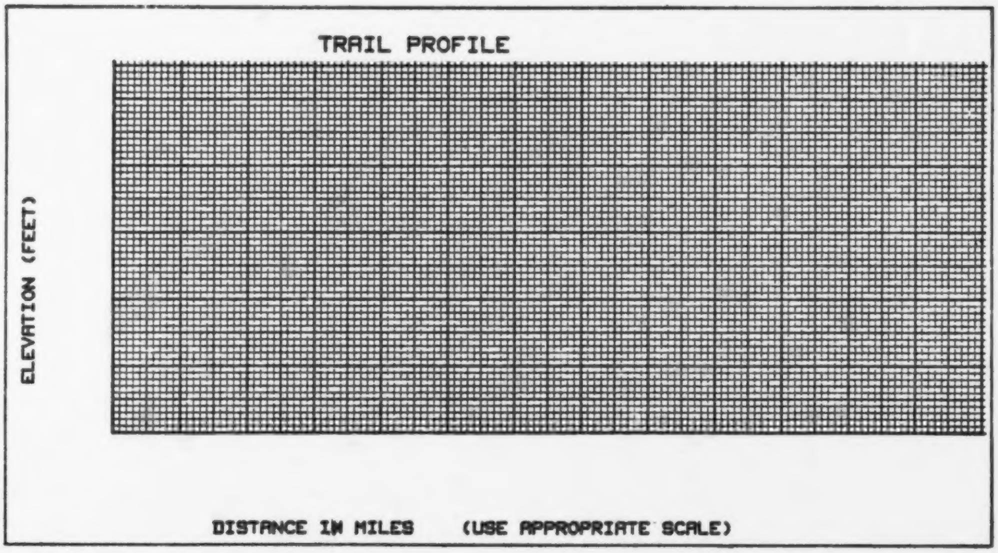
c. Ending elevation . . . . ______ ft. ______ m

d. Highest elevation . . . . ______ ft. ______ m

e. Lowest elevation . . . . ______ ft. ______ m

f. Estimate the total distance for each of the gradient categories listed below:

0 - 10% grade	______	miles	______	km	Comments ______________________
10 - 15% grade	______	miles	______	km	______________________
15 - 20% grade	______	miles	______	km	______________________
20 - 30% grade	______	miles	______	km	______________________
30% + grade	______	miles	______	km	______________________



Sheet 3 of 5

5. and 6. Estimate the total distance for each of the route terrain types listed below:

a. Valley _____ miles _____ km b. Streambed _____ miles _____ km
c. Sidehill _____ miles _____ km d. Rolling hills _____ miles _____ km
e. Ridge _____ miles _____ km f. Plateau _____ miles _____ km
g. _______ _____ miles _____ km h. __________ _____ miles _____ km
Comments ____
____
____

TRAIL LOG

LOCATION OR FEATURE	ELEV. FEET	HIKING TIME TODAY	MILES BETWEEN POINTS	MILES FROM START	ELEV. GAIN	ASPECT	NOTES

Add Additional Sheets As Needed

Sheet 4 of 5

7. Number of locations of lake, spring, or stream water available on route:

Potable	Nonpotable	Comments

8. Dispersed campsites along trail and distance from trailhead:

a. Name ____________ ________ miles ________ km
b. Name ____________ ________ miles ________ km
c. Name ____________ ________ miles ________ km

9. Indicate travel use occuring during the season(s) by writing in (P) permitted or (NP) not permitted in columns provided:

MEANS OF TRAVEL	SEASON OF USE			
	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Hiker				
Pack and Saddle				
Winter Ski and Snowshoe				
Summer Motorized				
Winter Motorized				
Bicycle				
Wheelchair				
Livestock Driveway				

10. Total user volume: Heavy line through the portion of the season(s) represents normal user volume for each category listed:

	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	
Light					Less than 30 users per season
Medium					30 to 300 users per season
Heavy					300 to 1500 users per season
Extra Heavy					More than 1500 users per season

11. Landownership: list the landowner(s) and distance(s) that the route crosses; also, note any right-of-way restrictions or conflicts

12. Route difficulty: shade the appropriate section or portions of sections to indicate the general degree of difficulty of the entire route.

EASY	MODERATE	MORE DIFFICULT	MOST DIFFICULT

13. Recreation opportunities suggested, (E) existing, (P) potential:

Day Hike ____
Backpack ____
Pack and Saddle ____
Cross-country Ski/Snowshoe ____

Motorized vehicle (under 40" wide) ____
Motorized vehicle (over 40" wide) ____
Bicycle ____
Access to other attractions ____
Snowmobile ____

Comments ____________

14. Route conditions and maintenance problems:

a. Estimate the distances the following general conditions exist:

Excellent _____ miles _____ km
Good _____ miles _____ km
Fair _____ miles _____ km
Abandoned _____ miles _____ km

b. Estimated average tread width:

_____ in. _____ cm

c. Estimated average right-of-way clearance:

Width _____ ft. _____ m
Height _____ ft. _____ m

d. Bridges and fords:

Number of bridges _____ Adequate _____ Inadequate
Number of fords _____ Adequate _____ Inadequate

e. Signing: Total number existing _____
New signs needed _____

f. Maintenance: give the numbers of signs needing maintenance _____
signs needing correction _____

Switchbacks with inadequate radius _____
Cut-across switchbacks _____
Problem brushy areas _____
Major route obstructions _____

Eroded areas _____
Boggy areas _____
Permanent snowfields _____
_______________ _____
_______________ _____
_______________ _____

g. Comment below on the quantity, location, and severity of existing problems, noting their locations on the work map. Include your recommendations concerning management, signing, etc. (Add additional pages and information as needed).

Attach narrative, sketch map, photographs, special regulations, and other information as necessary for management.

NOTE: Metric conversion: 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 foot = .3048 meters
1 mile = 1.609 kilometers

Visitor Contact Tabulation

The need for Recreation Opportunity Guide sheets for various activities is best determined by a measure of public demand. Public requests for information affect most Forest Service employees and many volunteers but the majority of them are handled by Ranger District clerks, receptionists, and information specialists. They are received by mail, telephone, and in person. To aid in documenting the numbers and kinds of requests a visitor contact tabulation method should be maintained. A simple method is to make a dot or line tally. To assist in organizing such a count a worksheet has been developed for your use. For those not familiar with marking tally's, a dot tally uses dots and lines to record the contacts; i.e., one equals a dot placed in a corner of an imaginary square, four equals dots placed in each corner, five through eight are recorded as lines connecting the dots around the perimeter, and nine and ten are diagonal lines crossing from corner to corner, thus ten contacts are shown ⊠. A line tally is more common and is recorded by one to four vertical lines followed by a diagonal slash for the fifth count, i.e, 𝍸.

A more sophisticated method could be devised using VeederRoot "tally whackers" or electronic devices but they are not always available. The manual method is probably the most costeffective at the present time.

Data thus documented can also be used in Recreation Information Management (RIM) reporting.

Worksheets Instructions: (self-explanatory)

Visitor Contact Tabulation Worksheet

______________ District/Forest

Location: ______________________________ Day, week, or month: ____________
Recorded by: ______________________________

1. Information requests by telephone. Total: ____________

2. Information requests in person. Total: ____________

3. Information requests by mail. Total: ____________

4. Information requests about recreation activities (estimate, if needed) (list other recreation activities).

Forest maps: ______________________________
Camping & picnicking: ______________________________
Hiking: ______________________________
____________: ______________________________
____________: ______________________________
____________: ______________________________
____________: ______________________________
____________: ______________________________

5. Information answered by:

Personal knowledge	Referred to other individuals	ROG	Referred to other organizations
Total:			

6. Evaluation: (comments)

Site-Related Inventory

Much of the data for developed and dispersed sites and areas is inventoried in the Recreation Information Management (RIM) system and/or the Code-A-Site record. An inventory worksheet is provided herein to identify and allow for additional information not covered in the RIM data. Some data is repeated for convenience but cross referencing should be used as much as possible in the inventory to save time. Preparation of the ROG data sheets will extract information from both sources (including Code-A-Site).

Site-Related Inventory Worksheet

________________ District/Forest

Site name: ______________________________________ RIM Serial # __________
Kind: ____
Special user fee?: ______________________________ Amount ______________
Elevation: __________________ feet ______________________________ meters
Location and access:

Facilities: (note quantity and/or description, handicap capability (H))

______________________ Camping sites
______________________ Picnic sites
______________________ Group sites
______________________ Toilets (number and type)
______________________ Parking
______________________ Trailer parking and turn around
______________________ Developed drinking water
______________________ Firewood (provided/uncut/none)
______________________ Refuse receptacle(s)
______________________ RV dump station (on site or within ____ miles)
______________________ Other facilities (specify)
____
____

Attractions:

______________________ Fishing access
______________________ Trail access (name, number)
______________________ Commercial facilities (nearby/on-site, specify)
______________________ Other attractions (specify)

Special considerations/comments:

____
____
____
____
____

Attach sketch map, special regulations, and other information as necessary.

Hunting and Fishing Inventory

No inventory worksheet is considered necessary for these activities. An outline is provided below to provide a format which should be followed as much as possible so that a uniform approach among Units will result.

HUNTING AND FISHING INVENTORY
(address items as appropriate)

LOCATION

- Elevation
- Topographic characteristic of area
- Direction of stream flow(s)
- Relationship of stream/area to nearby landmarks
- Predominant vegetative type

ACCESS

- Route(s) to general areas
- Type of access to area (trails, roads, highway, etc.)
- Restrictions on access (closed roads, foot use only, primitive roads, etc.)
- Method of access (motorcycle, foot, road, boat, etc.)

CONSIDERATIONS & ATTRACTIONS

- Amount of use (RVD); average duration of visit.
- Species of fish/game
- Landownership
- Livestock
- Property restrictions
- Type of fishing or hunting experience
- Hazards to fisherman/hunter
- Description of habitat:
  - water bodies
    - width
    - depth
    - pollution
    - pool/riffle
    - bank vegetation
  - land area
    - area size
    - vegetation type
    - vegetation density

COMMENTS

Attach sketch map, special regulations, and other information as necessary.

Waterway Inventory

Waterways are an important resource in the Southwest and influence many of the recreation activities, either directly or indirectly. Streams, lakes, ponds and reservoirs should be inventoried in the Recreation Information Management (RIM) system but standard practice in R-3 did not provide for all of them to be identified as separate elements of the record. For the purposes of ROG it may be necessary to re-inventory and possible cross-reference data (from RIM) to provide the information necessary.

The following outline should be used and supplemented as necessary:

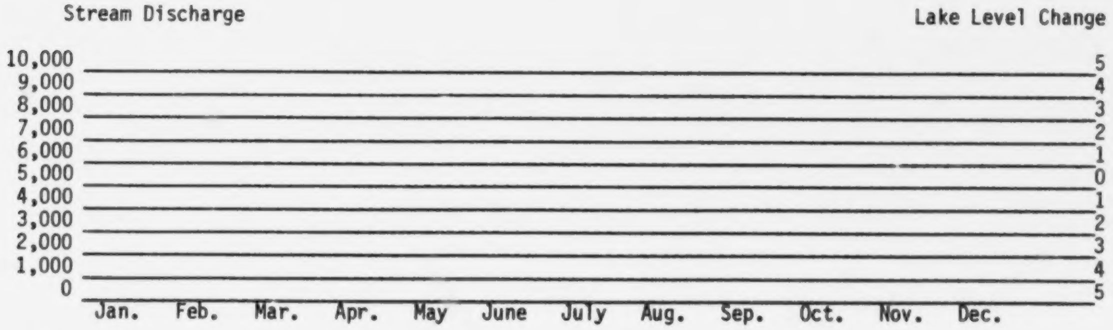
WATERWAY INVENTORY

________ District/Forest

Name of Waterway: ________
RIM Serial # ________ Kind code: ________
Location: ________
USGS maps: ________
General description of waterway: ________

Size (lakes): acres ____ hectares ____
Length (streams): straight line ____ km ____ miles
by water ____ km ____ miles
Width (streams): ____ meters ____ feet
Water temperature: winter ____ °C spring ____ °C summer ____ °C fall ____ °C
Water clarity: ________
Affected by: ________
Water quality: ________
Sources of pollution: ________
Deepest point: ____ meters ____ feet
Average depth: ____ meters ____ feet
Average stream gradient: ____ meters ____ feet
Bottom types: ________
Bank vegetation: ________
Geological formation of waterway: ________

Optional information:



Amount of use:

	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	
Light					less than 30 visitors per season
Medium					30 to 300 visitors per season
Heavy					300 to 1500 visitors per season
Extra heavy					more than 1500 visitors per season

Ownership of land, shoreline, and water: ____________________

Regulations and restrictions: ____________________

Access: ____________________

User conflicts: ____________________

ACTIVITIES (major)	SEASON OF USE			
	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Tubing, etc.				
Rafting				
Canoeing				
Row boating				
Kayaking				
Sailing (under 20 ft. boats)				
Sailing (over 20 ft. boats)				
Power boats: under 5 hp				
over 5 hp under 20'				
over 20 ft.				
Water skiing				

ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

Number of:
- Designated camp and picnicking sites . . . . . ____
- Dispersed occupancy spots . . . . . ____
- Commercial facilities . . . . . ____
- Public docks . . . . . ____
- Public boat ramps . . . . . ____
- Other put in-take out sites . . . . . ____

Hazards: ____________________

Types of boat-related activities available to user, including whitewater ratings where applicable: ____________________

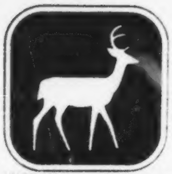
Comments/narrative: ____________________

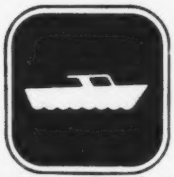
Sketch map:

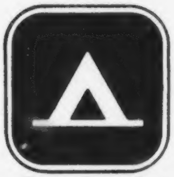
United States
Department of
Agriculture

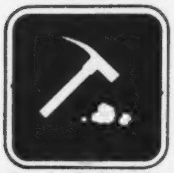
Forest Service
National Forest
Ranger District

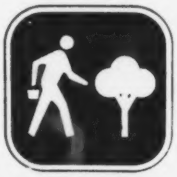
RECREATIONAL SYMBOLS FOR USE IN R.O.G.

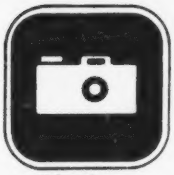

Wildlife Viewing 11

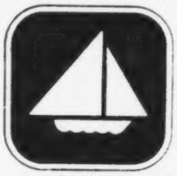

Motor Boating 55

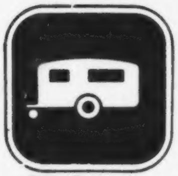

Tent Camping 38

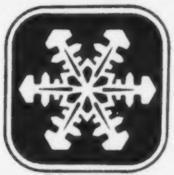

Rock Collecting 83

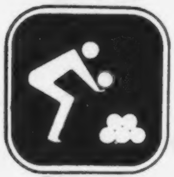

Gathering X-1


Viewing 36


Sailing 56


RV Camping 40


Snowplay 77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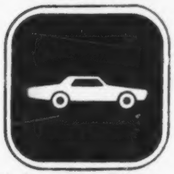
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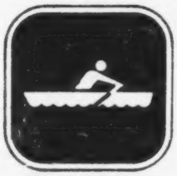
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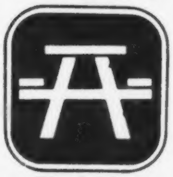
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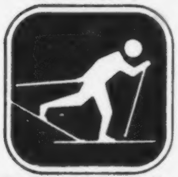
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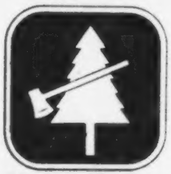
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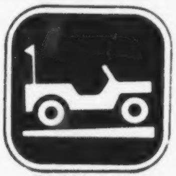
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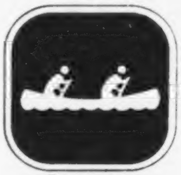
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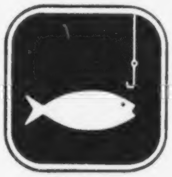
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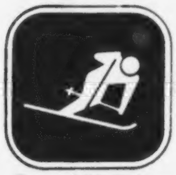
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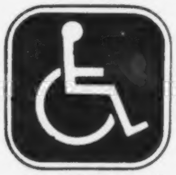
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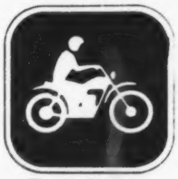
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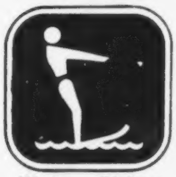
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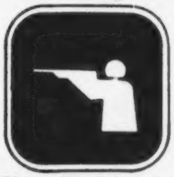
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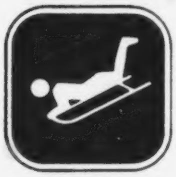
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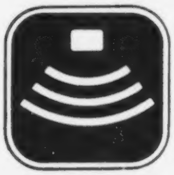
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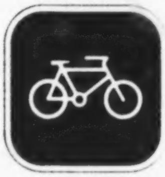
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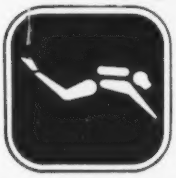
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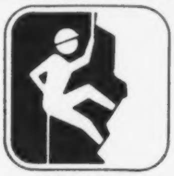
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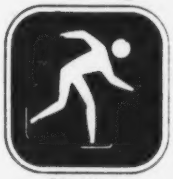
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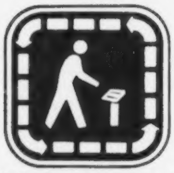
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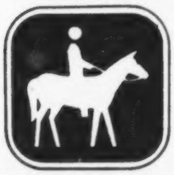
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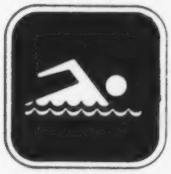
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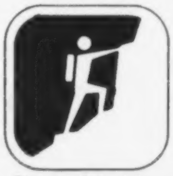
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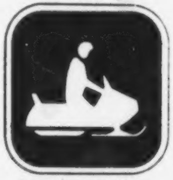
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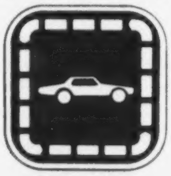
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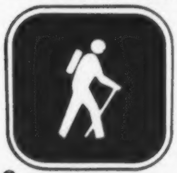
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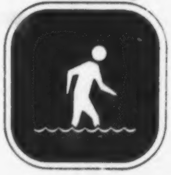
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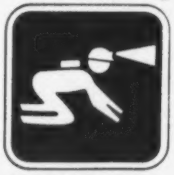
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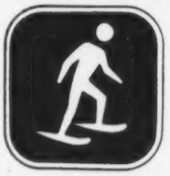
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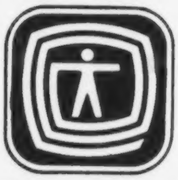
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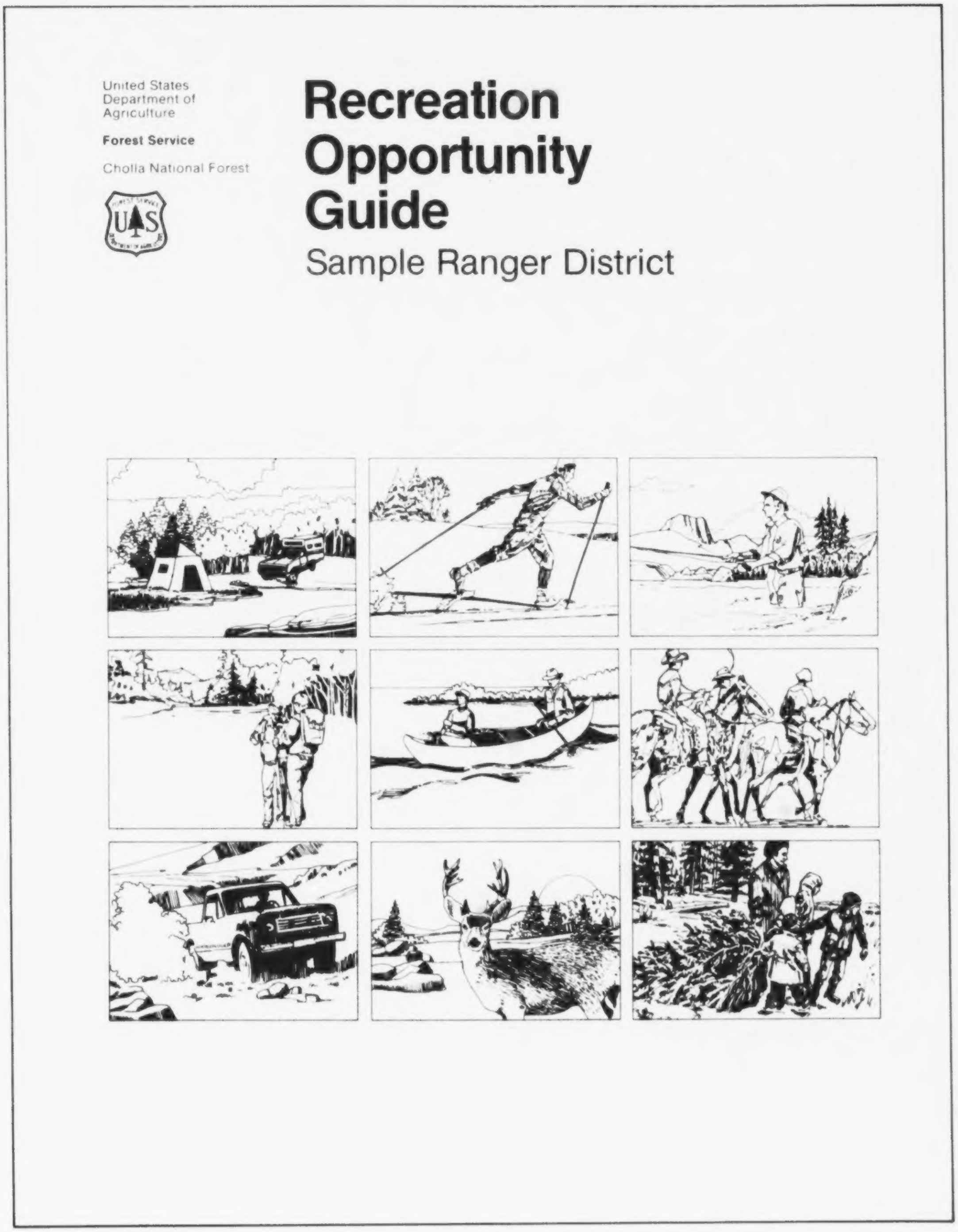

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Cholla National Forest

Recreation Opportunity Guide

Sample Ranger District

Foreword

The following pages, on buff-colored paper, are examples of pages from the Recreation Opportunity Guide, Sample District, Cholla National Forest. Only a few pages for a few activities are included. However, they illustrate the result of the ROG inventory and writeup process, and portray the ROG as it is seen and used by the public, as previously discussed.

Contents

PAGE OR SECTION

Format of the Recreation Opportunity Guide 1

How to Use the Recreation Opportunity Guide 2

Map of Sample Ranger District 3

Map of Cholla National Forest 4

Activities:

- Alpine Skiing (Downhill Ski Areas) . . . . SK
- Boating (Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts, etc.) . . . . B
- Camping and Picnicking (Developed Campgrounds, Picnic Areas, and Day-Use Sites) . . . . CP
- Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing (Day and Overnight Trips) . . . XC
- Fishing (Lake, Stream, River) . . . . F
- Four Wheel Drive (Motorized Vehicles over 40" wide). 4-WD
- Hiking (Day and Overnight Trips) . . . . H
- Horse Use (Pack/Saddle) (Day and Overnight Trips) . . . . HP
- Hunting (Big Game, Game Birds, Waterfowl) . . . . HT
- Identification/Gathering (Christmas Tree Cutting, Firewood Gathering, Berry Picking) . . . . IG
- Motorcycling (Motorized Vehicles under 40" width) . . . . MC
- Self-Guided Roads and Trails . . . . SG
- Sightseeing (Auto) . . . . S
- Sledding, Tobogganing, Tubing . . . . SP
- Snowmobiling . . . . SM
- Sport Shooting (Pistol, Rifle, Bow) . . . . SH

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FORMAT OF THE RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE (ROG)

The ROG categorizes recreation opportunities two ways:

A. BY ACTIVITY (i.e., Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Fishing, etc.). The Table of Contents at the beginning of the ROG lists activities available on the Sample Ranger District.

B. BY RECREATION AREA (i.e., Cholla Creek Area, Miller Peak Area, Petty Mountain Area, etc.). The areas are located on the map on page 3.

The ACTIVITIES (i.e., Hiking, Fishing, etc.) are listed by Area (i.e., Cholla Creek Area, Miller Peak Area, etc.). Each of the five AREAS is identified by a number series:

Cholla Creek Area	100 Series (100-199)
Miller Peak Area	200 Series (200-299)
Petty Mountain Area	300 Series (300-399)
Rattlesnake/Gold Creek Area	400 Series (400-499)
Rock Creek Area	500 Series (500-599)

Within each AREA, opportunities are listed as follows:

H	HIKING	Page
	Cholla Creek Area	H 100-199
	Granite Ridge Trail #289	H 101
	Granite Lake Trail #303	H 102
	Graves Creek Trail #325	H 103
	Howard Creek Ridge Trail	H 104
	Miller Peak Area	H 200-299
	Holloman Saddle Jeep Trail	H 201
	Miller Peak Divide Trail #512	H 202

HOW TO USE THE RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE (ROG)

STEP #1 Refer to the Table of Contents and select an activity. Note the corresponding abbreviation.

Example: Hiking H

STEP #2 Find the activity tab, turn to that section of the ROG. THEN...

A. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SPECIFIC LOCATION OR AREA IN MIND...

STEP #3 Scan the activity pages to find a location that suits your needs.

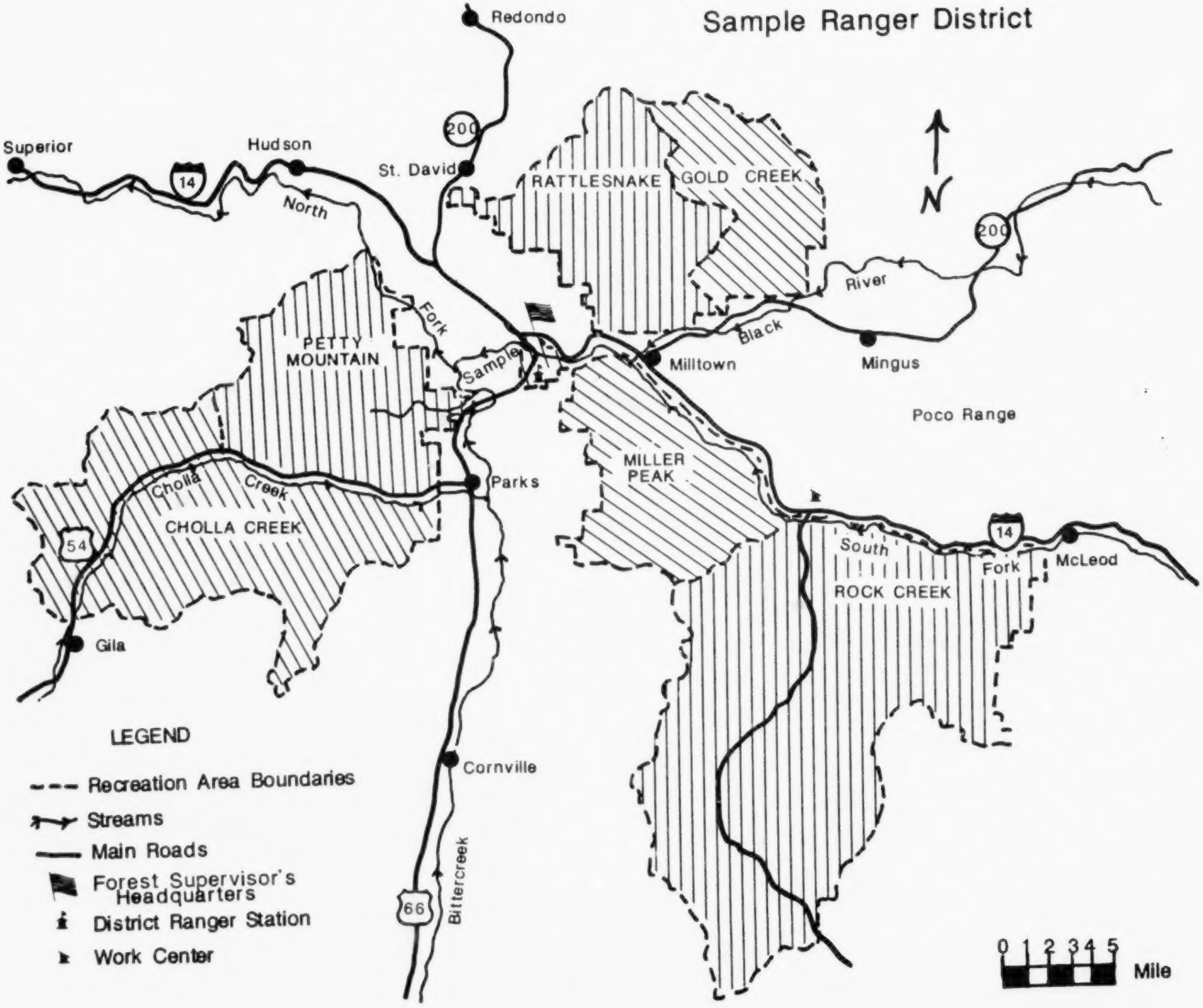
B. IF YOU KNOW THE AREA YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

STEP #4 Scan the Table of Contents under your activity(s) to find the AREA.

Example: Rock Creek Area H 500-599
Turn to the 'Rock Creek Area' section under Hiking and scan the pages to find a location that suits your needs, such as:

Welcome Creek Trail H 502

CHOLLA NATIONAL FOREST
Sample Ranger District


Redondo
Superior
Hudson
14
St. David
200
North
RATTLESNAKE
GOLD CREEK
N
200
River
Fork
PETTY MOUNTAIN
Sample
Black
Milltown
Mingus
Poco Range
MILLER PEAK
Parks
Cholla
Creek
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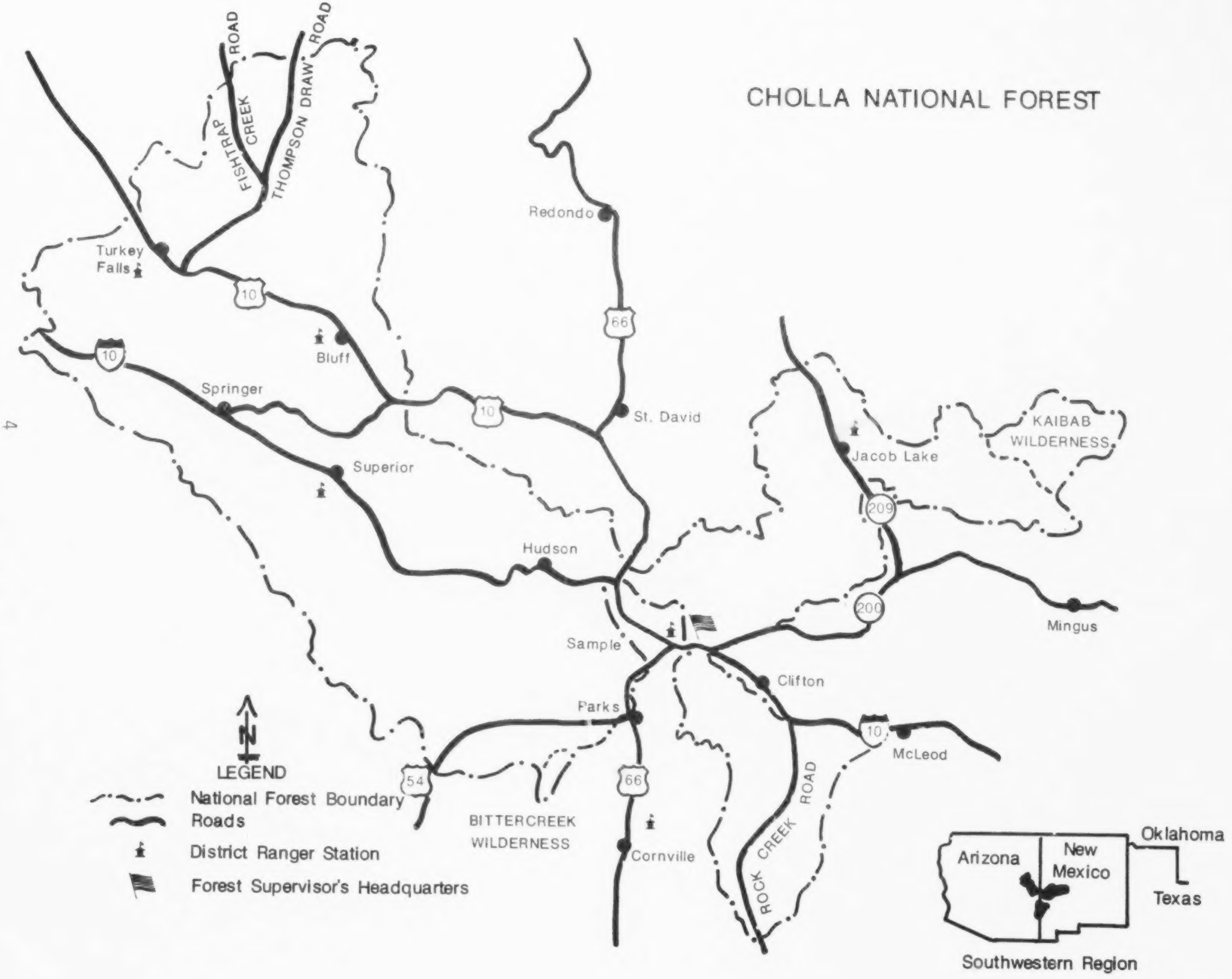
CHOLLA NATIONAL FOREST



FISHTRAP CREEK ROAD
THOMPSON DRAW ROAD
Turkey Falls
10
Bluff
10
Springer
Superior
10
Redondo
66
St. David
Hudson
Sample
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BITTERCREEK WILDERNESS
ROCK CREEK ROAD
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LEGEND
National Forest Boundary
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New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
Southwestern Region

Camping and Picnicking

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Annually more than 40 million persons use the nearly 7,000 developed camp and picnic grounds on public lands administered by the Forest Service. These areas, with a capacity of over one-half million visitors at one time, are now hosting 10 times as many campers as 15 years ago, and the number is still increasing.

Campers go hunting, hiking, swimming, boating, waterskiing, 4-wheeling, and horseback riding. They pick berries, collect rocks, watch birds, and photograph wild flowers, wild animals, superb scenery, and one another. They also spend time contemplating, socializing, and singing around the evening campfire.

Obviously there is no simple explanation for the strong attraction Americans have for the outdoors. Each person is drawn to the forest setting for reasons special to himself. Fortunately for Americans, open spaces and forest opportunities are still readily available and easily accessible.

To all visitors the Forest Service says: "Welcome to the National Forests--yours to enjoy, watch, keep clean." This is the Forest Service's way of asking the cooperation of one visitor in a thousand who might misuse or damage tables, signs, and other structures. Dollars saved by lowering repair and replacement costs can be used to build new recreation areas and to accommodate the increasing numbers of Americans using the Forests.

The main camping season on the Sample Ranger District is from May 30 through the Labor Day weekend. Although most campgrounds remain open for public use after the regular season, water systems are shut down to prevent freeze damage and garbage collection is discontinued. Snowpack may inhibit vehicle accessibility to open campgrounds during the winter season. Contact for snow and road conditions.

Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All campgrounds limit campers to a 14-day stay in one campground. When this 2-week limit is reached, the camper is required to move to another campsite unless special written permission has been secured. Small trailers may be used where permitted. Water, electrical, and sewage connections are not provided and waste water is not permitted to drain onto the ground.

Fires may be built at campgrounds without a permit where firerings and firegrates are established. Firewood is provided in some locations, deadfall should be utilized for fires; cutting of standing timber, shrubs, and other vegetation is prohibited. Surface water may be contaminated and should always be properly treated before consumption. Pets are welcome and should be kept on a leash. A nominal user fee is charged at Bluff Point and Petty Mtn. Campgrounds. Within our picnic areas, you will find tables, benches, water, firegrates, parking, and restrooms.

Major access routes out of Sample afford many opportunities for picnicking and overnight camping. Campgrounds administered by other public agencies in the area are also listed in the ROG, but it does not list commercial sites, highway rest areas, and frequently used "stopping" areas along the major highways.

There are many undeveloped camp sites and picnic spots throughout the District that also are not listed in the ROG. Specific information regarding them has been prepared and is available to the public at the Sample Ranger District office.

Welcome to the Sample Ranger District, the Cholla National Forest, and beautiful Eastern Arizona.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

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Norton Campground CP102
Grizzly Campground and Picnic Area. CP102
Welcome Creek Fishing Access Site CP103
Dalles Campground CP103
Harry's Flat Campground CP104
Bittercreek Flat Campground CP104
Siria Campground CP105

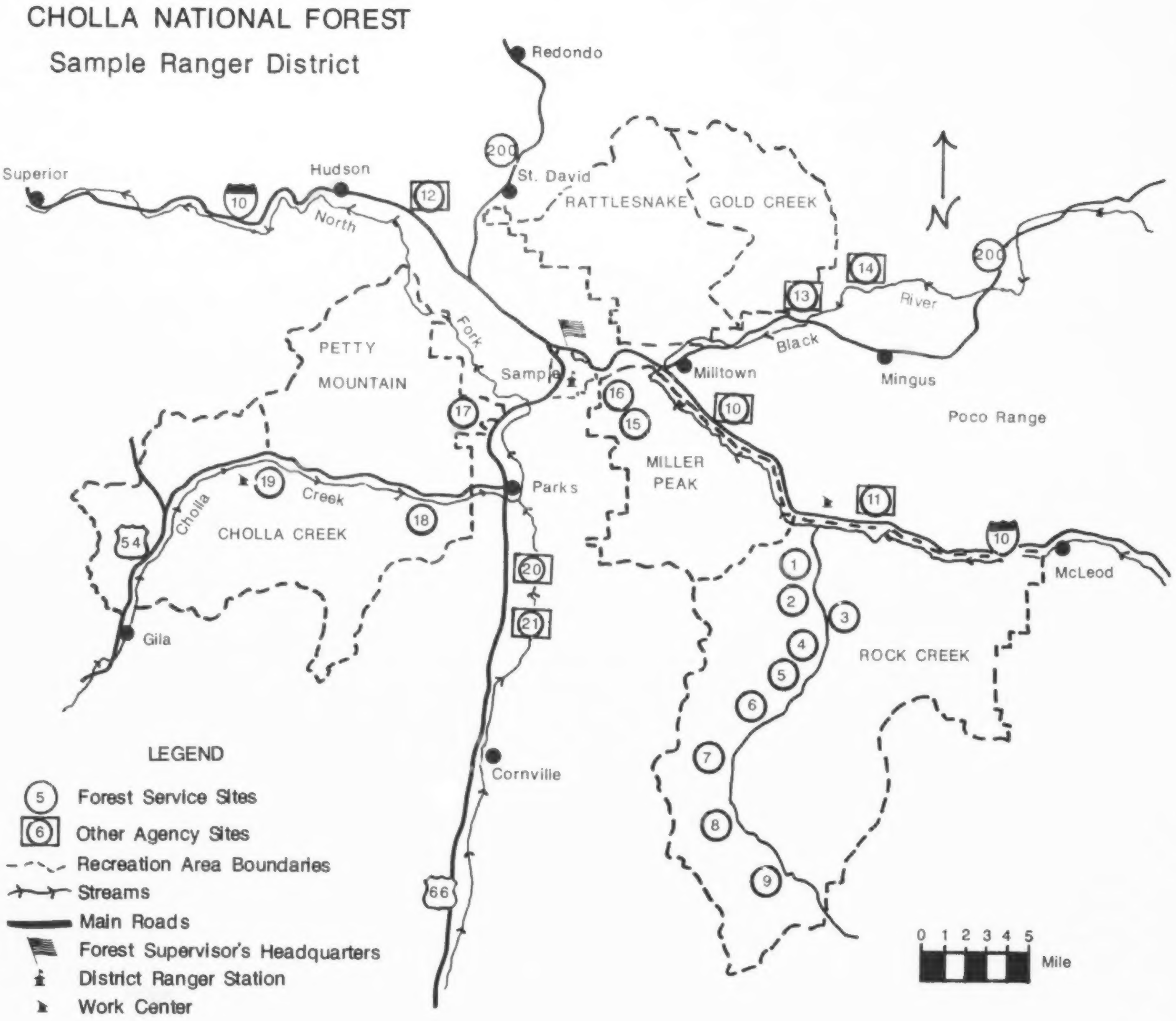
Miller Peak Area. (Pages 200-299)
(Sample only, list sites by name and page) CP201

U.S. Route 66 South of Sample

Petty Mountain Area (Pages 300-399)
(Sample only, list sites by name and page) CP301

U.S. Route 54 Southwest of Parks

Cholla Creek Area (Pages 400-499)
(Sample only, list sites by name and page) CP401



CHOLLA NATIONAL FOREST

Sample Ranger District

Redondo
Superior
Hudson
St. David
RATTLESNAKE
GOLD CREEK
North
Fork
PETTY
MOUNTAIN
Sample
Milltown
Black
River
Mingus
Poco Range
MILLER
PEAK
Parks
Creek
Cholla
CHOLLA CREEK
Gila
Cornville
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Camping and Picnicking

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Interstate 10 East of Sample

Forest Service Recreation Sites:

Forest Service campgrounds and picnic areas east of Sample in the Sample Ranger District are found exclusively in the Rock Creek drainage--an excellent fishing stream. Rock Creek Road #102 begins at Rock Creek exit from I-10, 24 miles east of Sample. Nine nonfee recreation sites with limited services offer fishing access to Rock Creek and beautiful forest surroundings. In addition, nondeveloped areas along the Rock Creek Road can also be used by visitors. Campers should be aware of private land in the drainage and secure permission from landowners before entering private property. Although much private property adjoining the road and river is posted, refer to Forest Service recreation maps to determine National Forest boundaries.

Groceries and other supplies may be obtained at several locations along the road. Forest Service policy concerning garbage is "pack in/pack out" except where garbage receptacles are provided. Forest Service officials and volunteer representatives patrol the recreation sites and provide assistance to forest visitors.

1. SAWMILL FISHING ACCESS SITE
   8 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Day use only.
   Elevation: 6800'

   Facilities:
   - 3 picnic benches
   - Toilet
   - Fireplace (firewood available)
   - Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)

   Attractions:
   - Public fishing access
   - Trail access--
     - Sawmill Trail #178 (see ROG pg. H 502)
   - Historic site--
     - Old mining town of Quigley is located at the mouth of Brewster Creek, .5 mile south of Sawmill.

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2. NORTON CAMPGROUND

11 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Overnight use.
Elevation: 6940'

Facilities:
- 12 campsites with tables
- Fireplaces (limited firewood)
- Toilets
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Ample parking
- Limited maneuvering for trailers

Attractions:
- Fishing access
- Adjacent to commercial lodge and facilities
- Adjacent to Rock Creek

3. GRIZZLY CAMPGROUND AND PICNIC AREA

12 miles south of I-10 and off Rock Creek Road 1 mile.
Overnight use and picnic sites. Elevation: 7025'

Facilities:

Campground
- 9 campsites with tables
- Fireplaces (firewood available)
- Toilets
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Ample parking
- Convenient trailer space

Picnic Area
- 4 tables (close together)
- Fireplace (firewood available)
- Toilets
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Limited parking

Attractions: (Both campground & picnic site)
- Camping/picnicking
- Off main road
- Fishing access
- Adjacent to Ranch Creek

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4. WELCOME CREEK FISHING ACCESS SITE
14 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Day use only.
Elevation: 7000'

Facilities:
- Toilets
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Limited parking

Attractions:
- Fishing access
- River crossing on cable foot bridge

5. DALLES CAMPGROUND
15 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Overnight use.
Elevation: 7000'

Facilities:
- 10 campsites with tables
- Fireplaces (firewood available)
- Toilets
- Developed water (faucet system) in season
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle
- Ample parking
- Convenient trailer space

Attractions:
- Fishing access
- Camping/picnicking
- River crossing on cable foot bridge

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6. HARRY'S FLAT CAMPGROUND

17 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Overnight use. Designated trailer space. Elevation: 7080'

Facilities:
- 7 tent-campsites with tables
- 6 trailer sites (limited maneuvering) with tables
- Fireplaces (firewood available)
- Toilets
- Developed water (faucet system) in season
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Ample parking

Attractions:
- Fishing access
- Camping/picnicking
- Designated trailer sites (small trailer)

7. BITTERCREEK FLAT CAMPGROUND

23 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Overnight use. Elevation: 7180'

Facilities:
- 15 campsites with tables
- Fireplaces (firewood available)
- Toilets
- Developed water (hand pump) system
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Ample parking
- Limited trailer space

Attractions:
- Fishing access
- Camping/picnicking
- Trail access--
  - Bitterroot Direct Trail #68 (see ROG, pg. H 572)
  - Alder Creek Trail #209 (see ROG, pg. H 513)

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8. SIRIA CAMPGROUND
28 miles south of I-10 on Rock Creek Road. Overnight use.
Elevation: 7450'

Facilities:
- 3 campsites with tables
- Fireplaces
- Toilets
- Pack in/pack out (no refuse receptacle)
- Ample parking
- No trailer space
- Rough campground road

Attractions
- Fishing access
- Camping/picnicking
- Adjacent to Forest Service guard station
- Adjacent to Rock Creek

Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

United States
Department of
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Cholla National Forest
Sample Ranger District

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING/SNOWSHOEING

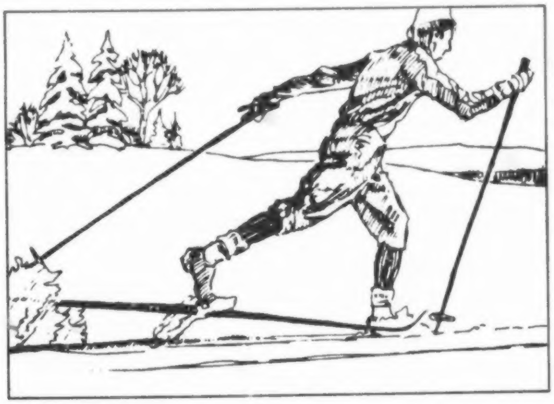
Winter is a beautiful time of year in Eastern Arizona, and cross country skiing is an active means of enjoying it. Cross-country skiing is a popular and quiet winter activity that may be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Many locations in the Sample area offer cross country skiing. Primitive roads become excellent ski trails offering a wider track and moderate grades for the skier to traverse easily.

Popular areas on the Sample Ranger District are Cholla Pass, Pattee Canyon, and the lower Rattlesnake Drainage. For those desiring the quiet and tranquility of untracked snow, numerous low-use areas in the District offer excellent skiing.

Snowshoeing enthusiasts will find most of the Forest's trails suitable. The difficulty rating given for these trails is in relation to cross country skiing, and most snowshoers will find them less difficult than listed because of the different characteristics of the two activities.

As with any wintertime activity, safety must be considered on a cross country ski trip, even short day trips. In the Appendix is a list of references about winter recreation. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with basic safety essentials, weather forecasts and avalanche reports to be better prepared for unexpected problems.



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Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

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TRAIL BEGINNING, 6160 ft. elev. (1878 m.) South loop of Pattee Canyon Picnic Area. Trailhead indicated by a sign.

TRAIL ENDING, 6160 ft. elev. (1878 m.) South loop of Pattee Canyon Picnic Area, about 300 feet from the trail beginning.

ACCESS Take Pottee Canyon Road southeast of Missoula for 5 miles to Pottee Canyon Picnic Area. Turn right onto the loop road, just past the main picnic area, to the trailhead.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS These three ski-touring trails are of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty. Trail lengths are 0.5, 1.0, and 3.4 miles, with the best family skiing on the two shorter trails. The longer trail is steep for the first mile, but after that it generally sidehills or descends in pitches, with a gradual ascent back to the trailhead. Parking is adequate for 10 vehicles. All trails are color coded and marked.

NARRATIVE These three ski-touring trails are of varying lengths. The two shorter trails (0.5 mile, orange, and 1.0 mile, yellow) are easy to moderate in degree of difficulty. The first mile of the longer (3.4 mile, blue) trail has rolling-to-steep terrain and requires more advanced skiing ability.

The 3.4-mile loop has topographic, senic, and ecologic diversity. This trail ascends through the timbered bench area where the two shorter trails are located. The timber types change from Ponderosa pine to fir--a transition readily noticeable as the trail climbs an additional

POTTEE CANYON CROSS-COUNTRY
SKI TRAILS

Length: mi. (km.)
See Profile below

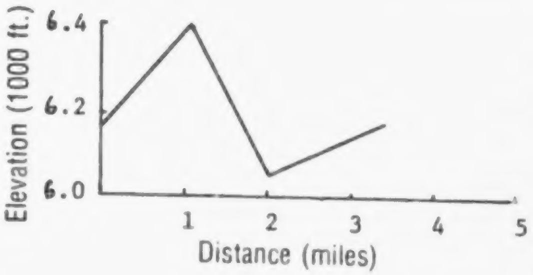
Recommended season:

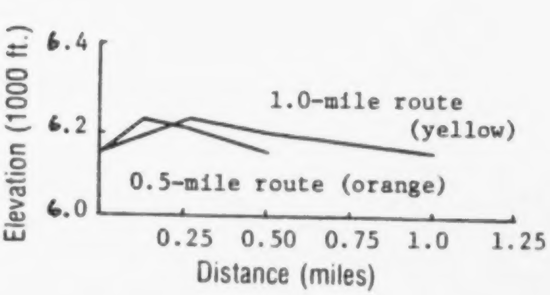
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
▶			◀──

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: See Narrative and Profile

USGS Map(s): SOUTHEAST SAMPLE Quad.



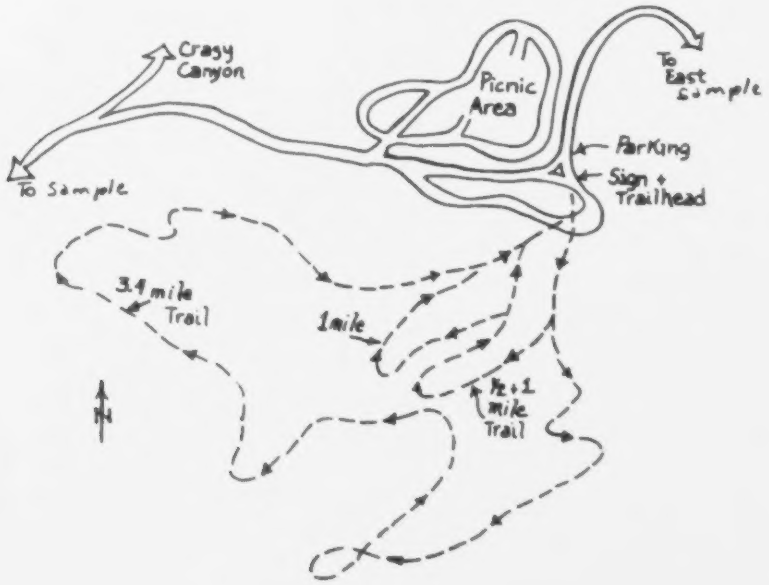


NARRATIVE Pottee Canyon Cross-Country Ski Trails (continued)

0.5 mile. This route follows an old logging road and, generally, the entire trail is on old roadways.

Most of the elevation is gained in the first mile, and the midportion of the loop either sidehills or drops down a long ridge toward the Larch Camp area. From the 0.5 to 1.5 mile markers, caution should be exercised by those new to the trail since this section contains steep pitches. The route from the 1.5 to 2.5 mile markers is characterized by gently downhill runs and gradual turns. This ridgetop location affords the opportunity to rest for the final 0.75 mile gradual climb to the trailhead.

All trails are marked by 6-inch square color-coded placards, and the trailhead by a sign. As manpower and equipment availability permit, the trail system is groomed with motorized track-setting machinery.


Crasy Canyon
Picnic Area
To East Sample
To Sample
Parking
Sign + Trailhead
3.4 mile Trail
1 mile
½ + 1 mile Trail
N

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

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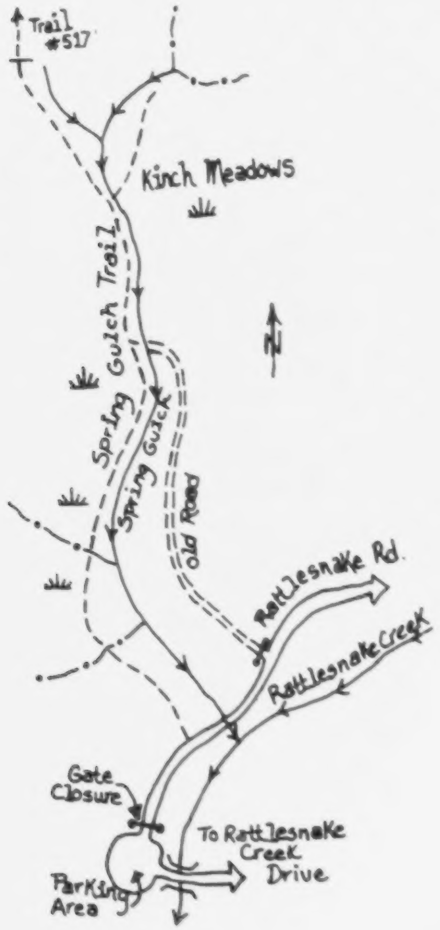
TRAIL BEGINNING 6640 ft. (2024 m.)
.5 mile north of gate closure on Rattlesnake Road.

TRAIL ENDING 6640 ft. (2024 m.)
Trailhead #516, upper end of Spring Gulch.

ACCESS Five miles up Rattlesnake Drive and turn left to Rattlesnake road and gate closure. Continue .5 mile on foot to the trailhead.


Trail #517
Kinch Meadows
Spring Gulch Trail
Spring Gulch
Old Road
N
Rattlesnake Rd.
Rattlesnake Creek
Gate Closure
To Rattlesnake Creek Drive
Parking Area

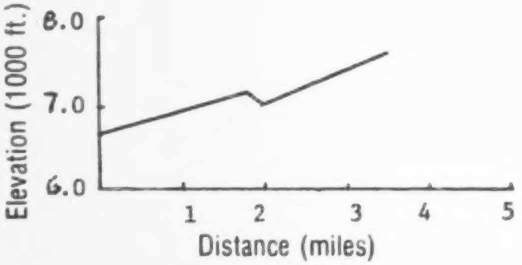
SPRING GULCH TRAIL #4

Length: 3.5 mi. (5.6 km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter ←→

Use: **Heavy**
Difficulty: **Easy**
USGS Map(s): NORTHEAST SAMPLE Quad.



ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS
Excellent for cross-country skiing, all ages. This trail leads to Stuart Peak Trail, which continues up to Mosquito Peak and on up to Sanders Lake. Kinch Meadows at the upper end of the trail offers excellent off-trail skiing. Possible loop tours in general area of meadows and Spring Creek.

NARRATIVE Spring Gulch Trail #4

This trail often considered the gateway to the Rattlesnake drainage, is one of the most pleasant trails in all seasons in the Rattlesnake area. After 3.5 miles and approximately 1000 feet of elevation gain, the trail joins Stuart Peak Trail #517 which continues to Rattlesnake Peaks. Spring Gulch Trail is suitable for use by persons of all ages and capabilities and is excellent for cross-country skiing.

Visitors have crossed Spring Creek in the summer months, leaving many paths and creek crossings. The old road on the east side is better for skiers, not only because it is generally cooler, but it also is wider and less brushy. In this section, the visitor passes an old homesite established by an early Mormon family and apple trees planted by earlier settlers that still bear fruit. The grade during the first 2.5 miles is less than 10 percent and is suitable for novice skiers.

Although there may not always be sufficient snow cover at the trailhead and lower elevations, a short walk up the trail usually brings the skier to adequate snow. The last mile has a grade of 10-15 percent and reaches Kinch Meadows at an elevation of 7500 feet. From this point, Stuart Peak Trail #517 is often used by experienced skiers; it has longer and steeper sections and a possibility of downhill powder skiing. However, from the meadows, the less ambitious skier can make tours on moderate slopes. Many loop tours are possible using the general area of the meadows and Spring Creek or heading up Stawberry Ridge to the east and ultimately down to Rattlesnake Road, approximately 3 miles from the parking area. If snow conditions are good at lower elevations, this provides and excellent loop of less than 10 miles.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--rember that Nature is unpredicatable.

Fishing

United States
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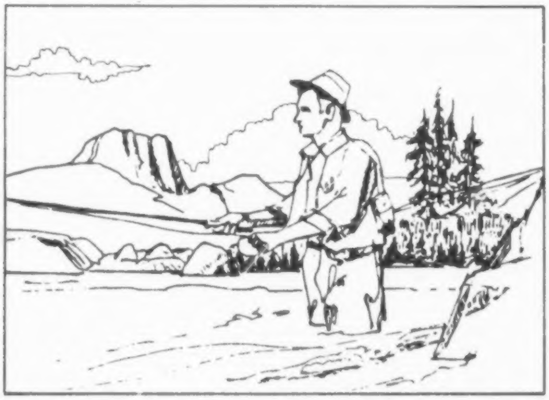
Sample Ranger District

FISHING

There are approximately 450 miles of fishable streams and rivers and more than 20 small lakes in the area around Sample. These streams and rivers provide varied fishing experiences ranging from the excitement of fishing secluded waters to the adventure of fishing a nationally acclaimed Blue Ribbon trout stream. Most lakes are accessible only by foot trail and are mostly in the Rattlesnake/Gold Creek area.

While the State Department of Fish and Game has responsibility for regulating and managing sport fishing, the Forest Service manages fishing habitat in the National Forests. Many fishable stream in the area are on private land; fishermen are advised to secure proper permission before entering private property. All persons 15 years and older are required to possess a current State fishing license. For further information on rules and regulations, contact a State Department of Fish and Game office.



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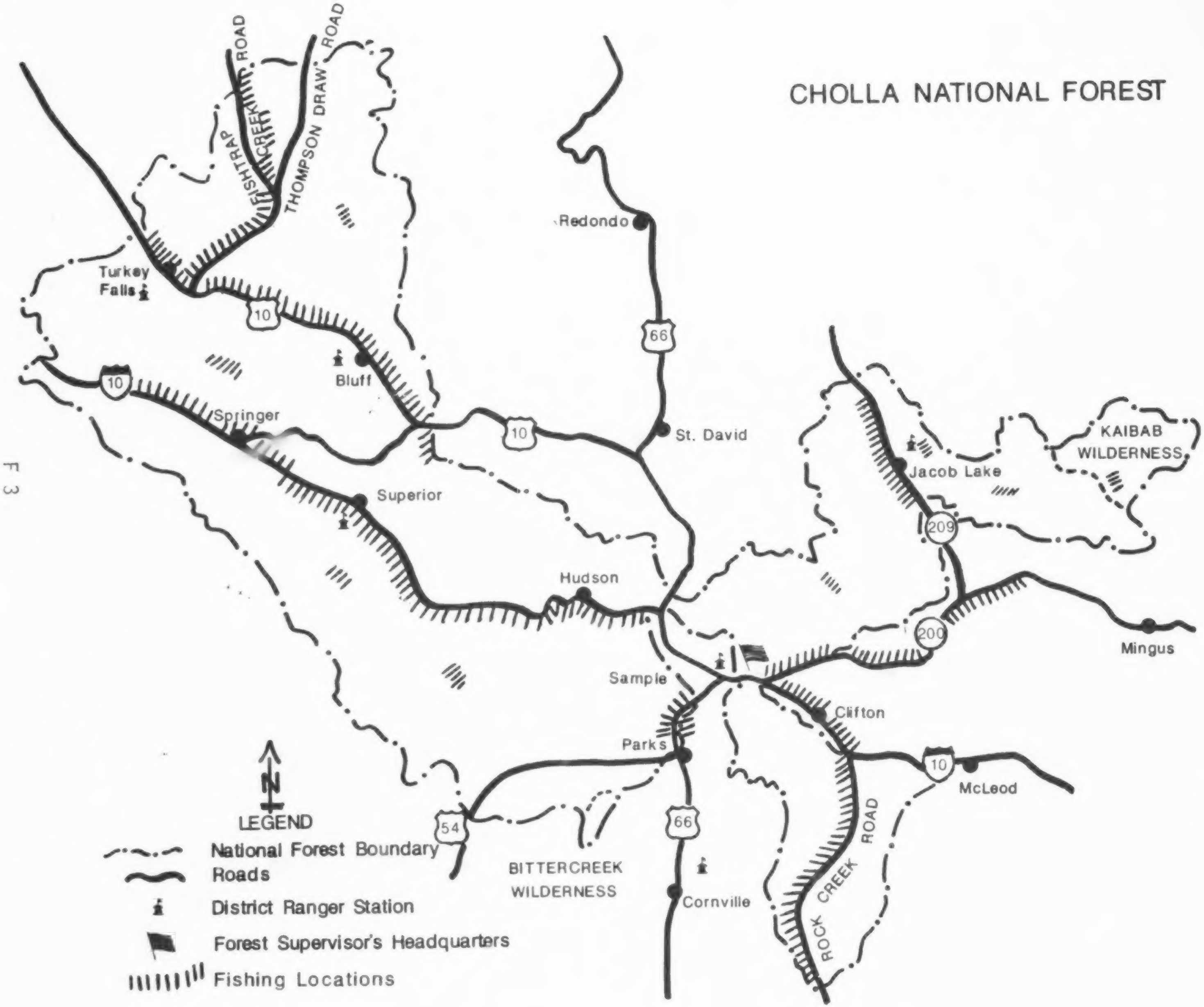
CHOLLA NATIONAL FOREST


FISHTRAP CREEK ROAD
THOMPSON DRAW ROAD
Redondo
Turkey Falls
10
66
Bluff
10
Springer
10
St. David
KAIBAB WILDERNESS
Jacob Lake
209
Superior
Hudson
200
Mingus
Sample
Clifton
Parks
10
McLeod
N
54
66
ROCK CREEK ROAD
BITTERCREEK WILDERNESS
Cornville
LEGEND
National Forest Boundary
Roads
District Ranger Station
Forest Supervisor's Headquarters
Fishing Locations

F 3

Fishing

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CHOLLA CREEK

LOCATION From an elevation of 200 feet at Cholla Pass, Cholla Creek flows north and east 33 miles to the Bittercreek near the town of Parks.

ACCESS Highway 54 to Cholla Pass follows the creek. Side roads and turnouts offer access.

CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS At one time Cholla Creek was an excellent fishery; logging, livestock, irrigation diversions, highway construction, channel changes, subdivisions and heavy fishing pressure have reduced its value. In recent years, the lower half of the stream has been selectively posted, so access is difficult. Fish plantings and recruitment from tributaries have kept the creek productive so that fishing is still fair at times. During the summer, fishing pressure is heavy and the fish are generally quite small. Rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout are found throughout the drainage; brown trout and crappie are found in the lower reaches of the creek.

Private and Forest Service campgrounds and other services are available along the creek and at the town of Parks. Highway 12 offers access to most of the stream via side roads and turnouts. The highway, agriculture, and subdivisions have altered approximately one-third of the natural channel from the Hot Springs to Parks. Consequently, there is a scarcity of pools and good trout habitat on most of the stream. However, if fishing is slow, there are many points of interest along the stream and other recreational opportunities in the area.

See the Cholla Area Map.

F 101

Fishing

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SE of the Cholla Area

BITTERCREEK

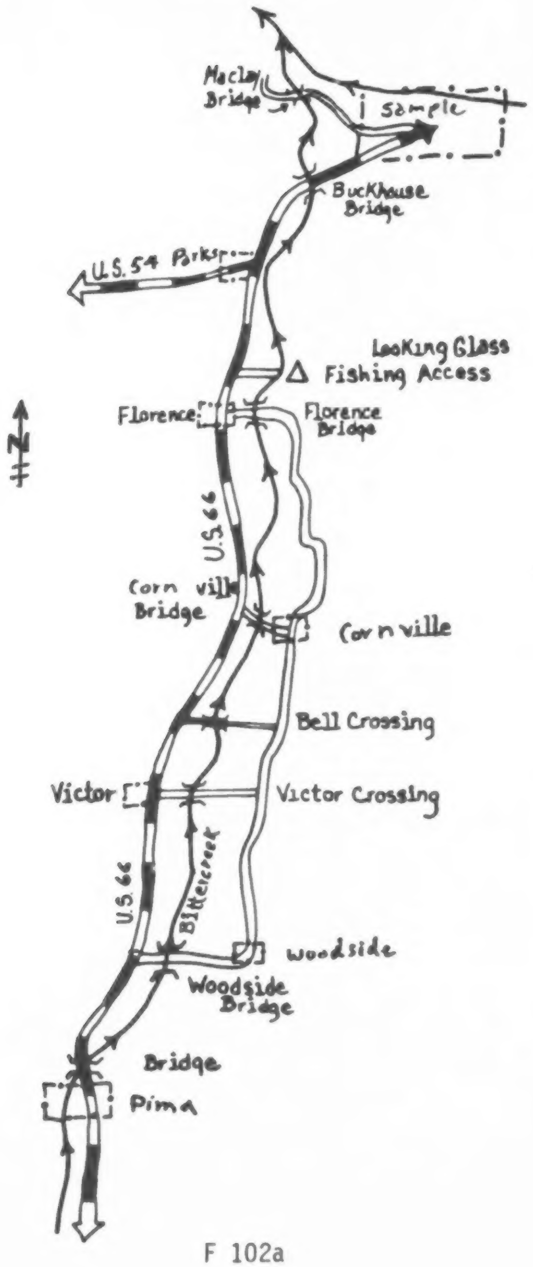
LOCATION The East and West Forks join above Pima to form the Bittercreek. From here it flows northward for 80 miles to its confluence with the North Fork River west of Sample. The section from Pima to Sample is the only part discussed in the review.

ACCESS Highway 66 from Parks to Cornville offers access to secondary roads that lead to the river. Main access points are: Maclay's Bridge west of Sample, Buckhouse Bridge west of McLeod, Looking Glass Fishing Access 7 miles south of Parks, Florence Bridge east of Florence, Cornville Bridge west of Cornville, Bell Crossing 2 miles north of Victor, and the Highway 66 Bridge just north of Pima. Access can be obtained on some private roads leading to the river. Inquire with owner concerning access rights.

CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS During most of the year the Bitter flows slowly northward through colorful cottonwood bottomlands. However, during the spring runoff it becomes a dangerous combination of fast water and snags. In contrast, during the summer low water periods, the river is transformed into a small stream that courses over vast gravel bars. Most of the fish in this section of water are not those pursued by the western anglers. While suckers and squawfish abound, there are still good trout and whitefish populations in most areas. Habitat favors the roughfish; trout are limited to areas with good cover such as undercut banks, log jams and submerged trees. Brown, rainbow, cutthroat, and book trout are found in an equal order of abundance. Winter fishing for whitefish is popular and productive. (The river is normally closed to trout fishing during the winter above the Florence Bridge.) An occasional brown or rainbow trout large enough to put on the wall is caught, but the average is slightly under a foot in length.

The catch is fairly evenly divided between bait, spin, and fly fishermen, with those who take the time to float doing the best. Because of private lands the bank fisherman is limited in where he can go. The river is slow moving, and a floater should be careful not to attempt more river than can be floated in a day. It is best to avoid the river during spring runoff and low flows in the fall. During low flows, the main channel may be large enough to float, but after splitting up three or four times, it can turn into a long portage. One must watch out for diversion dams that may go all the way across the river. However, if you hit the river on the right day it can be excellent fishing.

BITTERCREEK


Maclay Bridge
sample
Buckhouse Bridge
U.S. 54 Parksp
Looking Glass
Fishing Access
N
Florence
Florence Bridge
U.S. 66
Corn ville Bridge
Corn ville
Bell Crossing
Victor
Victor Crossing
U.S. 66
Bittercreek
woodside
Woodside Bridge
Bridge
Pima

F 102a

Fishing

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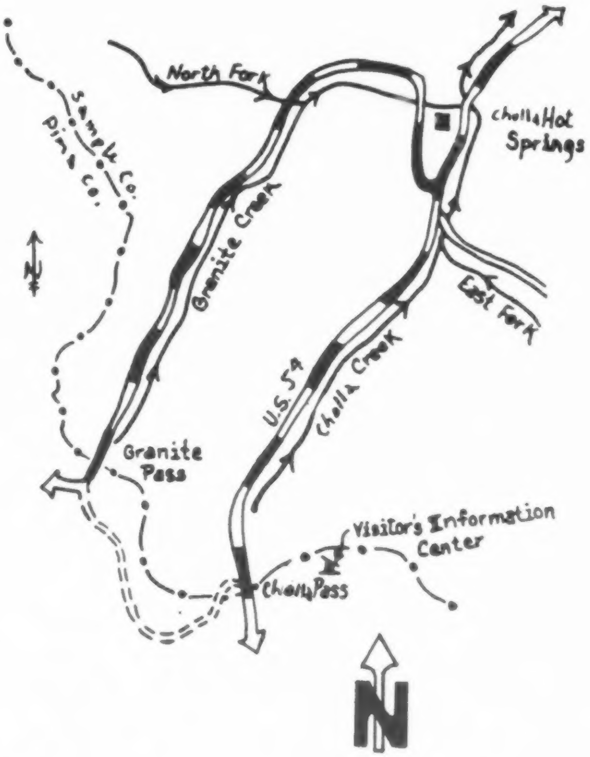
Cholla Area

LOCATION Granite Creek runs north east from Granite Pass (3 miles northwest of Cholla Pass) for 8 miles to Cholla Creek at Cholla Hot Springs.

ACCESS Take Highway 54 west from the town of Parks for 26 miles (1 mile west of the Hot Springs) to the Granite Creek-Fish Creek Road (#343), then north on this road for 2 miles to Granite Creek Road. The Granite Creek Road follows the creek for the rest of its fishable length.

CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS Although Granite Creek flows through lands of mixed ownership, access is no problem except in the lower .5 mile at the Hot Springs. This stream averages 15" wide and 6" deep, with many good pools. Rainbow-cutthroat hybrids are common, but cool water temperatures and low productivity keep their size small. It's a fairly popular stream, and by the end of the summer the fish are hard to catch in these clear waters.

GRANITE CREEK


North Fork
Sample Co.
Pima Co.
N
Granite Creek
Cholla Hot Springs
East Fork
U.S. 54
Cholla Creek
Granite Pass
Visitor's Information Center
Cholla Pass
N

4-Wheel Drive

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FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE

Several roads in the Sample Ranger District are used by 4-wheel drive vehicles. These roads are generally suitable for travel by small 4-wheel drive vehicles; larger rigs often have difficulty with clearances between trees and meeting other vehicles.

To preserve opportunities for future use of high country roads, 4-wheel drive vehicles should be driven in a responsible manner. Drivers should be concerned with caring for existing roads by driving when road conditions are dry and stable. Vehicles should be operated so that road surfaces are not rutted and road shoulders are not deteriorated while maneuvering around obstructions. Water bars and erosion prevention devices should not be rutted or damaged. Off-road areas should not be damaged by unnecessary travel.

Careless off-road travel has no place in our forests and will only encourage restrictions and regulations. Existing 4x4 roads on the Sample District of the Cholla National Forest can provide excellent trips, with outstanding scenic views and good times with family and friends.

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4-Wheel Drive

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Petty Mountain Area

ROAD BEGINNING, 6600 ft. elev. (2012 m.) Blue Mountain Saddle at the junction of Blue Mountain Road #365 and Woodman Creek Road #458.

ROAD ENDING, 7960 ft. elev. (2426 m.) On a saddle 2 miles southeast of Petty Mountain at the junction with Rock Creek-Deep Creek Trail #720.

ACCESS Two miles southwest of Sample on Highway 66, turn north at Blue Mountain Road (County Road #30), go 1.1 miles to Blue Mountain Road #365. Turn left and continue 13.2 miles to Blue Mountain Saddle, marked by a five-road junction. The primitive road continues northwest along the ridge.

CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS Grave Creek Range Primitive Road #8 is a ridge road with little clearance for vehicles. Campsites are located enroute.

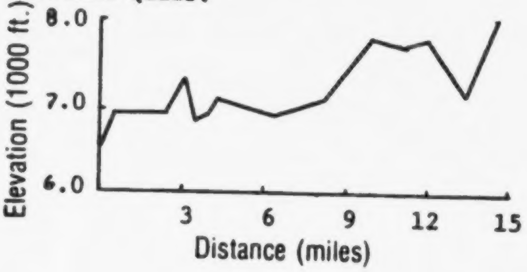
GRAVE CREEK RANGE PRIMITIVE ROAD #8

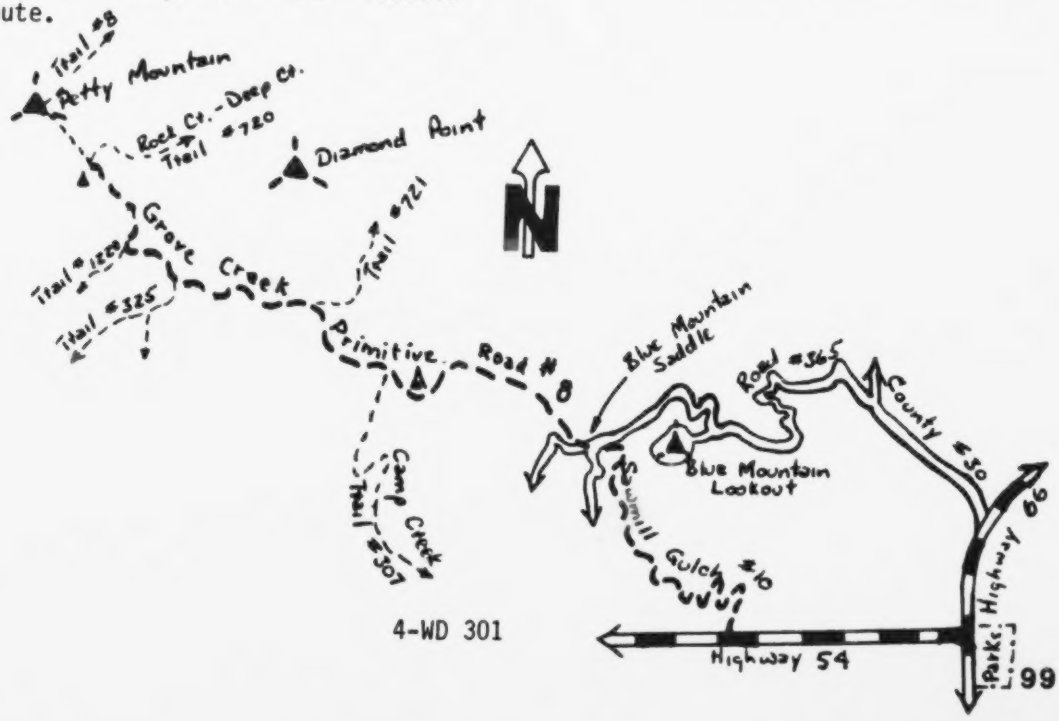
Length: 14.4 mi. (23 km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	←	→	

Use: Medium
Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Map(s): PETTY MOUNTAIN, CAMP CREEK, DIAMOND POINT, and BLUE MOUNTAIN Quads.




Trail #8
Petty Mountain
Rock Cr.-Deep Cr. Trail #720
Diamond Point
N
Trail #721
Trail #124
Trail #325
Grave Creek Primitive Road #8
Blue Mountain Saddle
Road #365
County #30
Highway 66
Blue Mountain Lookout
Camp Trail #301
Camp Creek
Sawmill Gulch #10
Highway 54
Parks!

NARRATIVE Grave Creek Range Primitive Road #8

This scenic and fairly remote primitive road begins at Blue Mountain Saddle and has a well-defined double tread. Cholla Peak, the Bittercreek Range, and many drainages to the south can be seen. Beargrass, scrub oak, and blackberry adorn this alpine environment beneath stands of ponderosa pine, maple and alpine fir.

The road traverses a steep section before reaching the junction with Camp Creek Trail #307, 4.5 miles from the road's beginnings. As Road #8 continues along the ridge it passes through large, grassy meadows. Several road and trail spurs lead away from Road #8, but all are closed year-long to 4-wheeled vehicle travel.

Grave Creek Range Primitive Road #8 ends on a broad, flat, grassy saddle. Here the route forks; one route leads to Rock Creek-Deep Creek Trail #720, and the other to Grave Creek Trail #8 (foot and motorcycle trails only). An intermittent stream can be found on a path .25 mile down the south side of the ridge below an old hunter's camp at the road's end.

Potential dispersed campsites are plentiful along this route, and campers are reminded to have an axe, shovel, bucket, and extra water when building fires. Travelers are advised to bring extra amounts of water and gas on this long trip.

Hiking

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This section covers most forms of walking for recreation except mountaineering, rock climbing, and snow or ice climbing. We have included the range of activities from short day hikes to extended backpacking trips.

Terrain in the Sample area ranges from river bottoms with an elevation of 5800 feet to a subalpine environment of 9100 feet. Valley bottoms, dense forests, meadows, and occasional clearings and barren ridges are mixed with streams, rivers, and lakes. Bears, poisonous snakes, or plants have not been major problems. Insects are not especially troublesome either; however, insect repellant is advisable during the summer.

Many hikers use a backpacker stove; when an open fire is needed, please be careful and use existing fire circles when possible. Packing out nonburnable refuse is always necessary. Maintaining the quality of any outdoor recreation experience requires a land use ethic that is the responsibility of everyone. "Take only pictures and leave only footprints."

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

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Petty Mountain Area

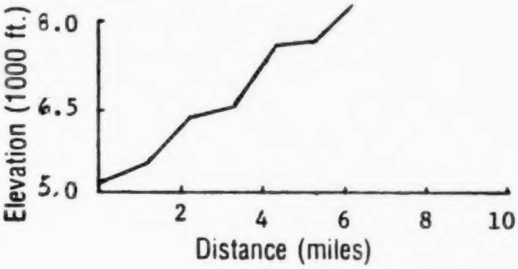
BLUE MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3

Length: 6.0 mi. (9.6 km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
←		→	

Use: Light to Medium
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
USGS Map(s): BLUE MOUNTAIN and SOUTHWEST SAMPLE Quads.



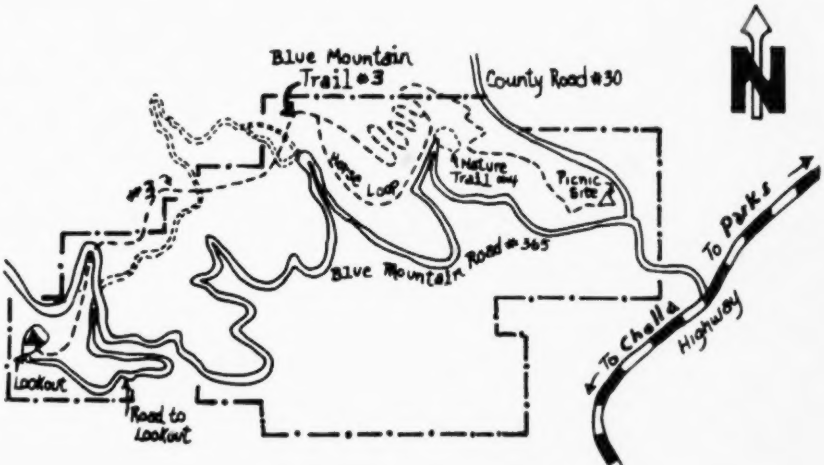
TRAIL BEGINNING, 5200 ft. elev. (1585 m.) Lower Blue Mountain Picnic Site. Trailhead is directly west of campfire ring.

TRAIL ENDING, 8460 ft. elev. (2579 m.) Blue Mountain Lookout.

ACCESS #1 Two miles southwest of Sample on Highway 66, turn right on Blue Mountain Road #365. Follow road 1.5 miles to junction. Take left fork and drive past cattleguard to main picnic site at the Lower Blue Mountain Recreation Area.

ACCESS #2 South Avenue west to Maclay Bridge. Take County Road #30 southeast along the Bitter until reaching the first road junction. Turn right and drive past cattleguard on Blue Mountain Road #365 to picnic site.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS The easiest section of trail is the lower 2.5 miles. The climb becomes more difficult after reaching the first road crossing because the grade is steeper and the tread is rutted in some areas. Once on the ridgetop, climbing becomes less difficult. An easier route is to drive Road #365 to Blue Mountain Lookout and follow the trail downhill to the picnic site. This trail currently is used most by horseback riders. Water is not available enroute. There is ample parking at the trailhead.



NARRATIVE Blue Mountain Trail #3

Blue Mountain equestrian/hiking trail offers a walk through a forested environment in the Blue Mountain Recreation Area while overlooking the Sample Valley. This area receives a high level of outdoor recreation use during the spring, summer, and fall. However, the trail itself receives minimal use and offers more solitude.

The trail passes through stands of Douglas-fir and Ponderosa pine where rose hips, strawberries and blackberries are frequent. The lower section of trail presents an occasional scenic view of the Sample Valley and Bittercreek drainage. A panoramic view can be seen from the Blue Mountain Nature Trail, gravelled loop trail .25 mile in length directly west of the main hiking trail on a small knoll. An extensive view of the Sample area, including the Mission Range and the Bittercreek Valley, can be seen from the top of Blue Mountain on a clear day.

The first 2.5 miles of the trail is for day use only; however, camping is allowed on the upper slopes of the Blue Mountain Recreation Area. Signs designate the main equestrian/hiking trail as it crisscrosses other trails toward the upper section to the lookout.

Forest regulations prohibit use of motorized vehicles on this trail to provide a safer, more desirable foot trail for hikers and horseback riders.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--rember that Nature is unpredicatable.

H 301a

Hiking

United States
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Rattlesnake/Gold Creek Area

TRAIL BEGINNING, 6220 ft. elev. (1896 m.) At the junction 8 miles north of gate closure on Rattlesnake Road.

TRAIL ENDING, 7820 ft. elev. (2377 m.) At junction with route northeast of Sheep Mountain.

ACCESS #1 Via Rattlesnake Road #99. Walk past the gate closure for 8 miles to the first switchback beyond Franklin Bridge. Turn east off the switchback at the trailhead junction. Adequate parking at Rattlesnake Road gate closure.

ACCESS #2 Via Woods Gulch Trail #513; the trail junction is northeast of Sheep Mountain in Sec. 17, T. 16 N., R. 21 W.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS The First part of the trail passes through a narrow shady gorge strewn with large moss-covered boulders and roaring waterfalls. There are limited places to camp. The trail is narrow and rocky with steep sections. To hike from the main Rattlesnake entrance to the end of this trail would require at least 2 days.

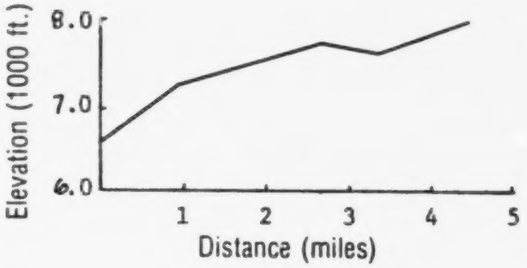
EAST FORK RATTLESNAKE TRAIL #514

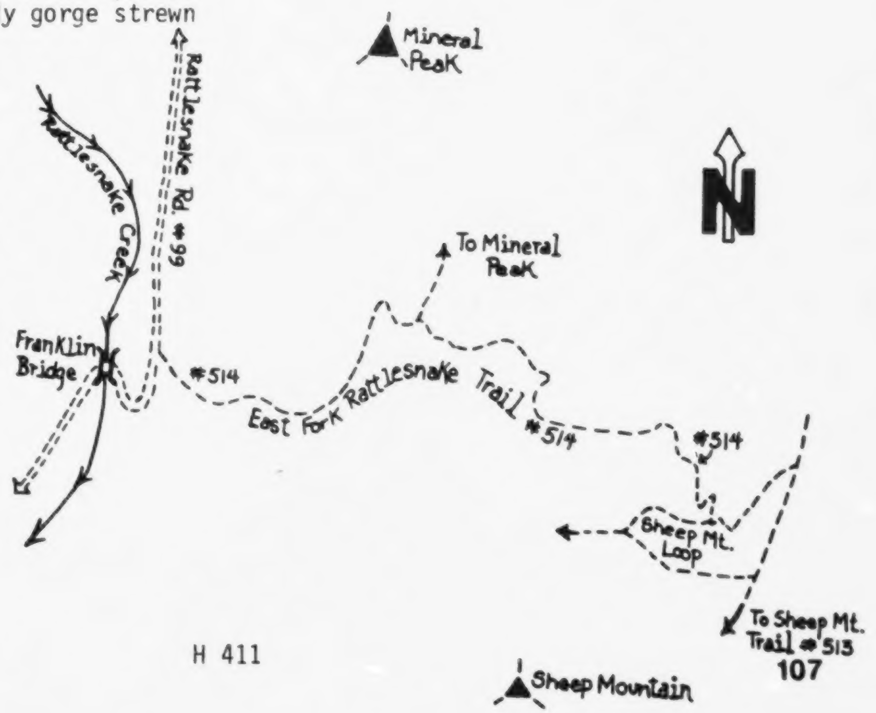
Length: 4.5 mi. (7.2 km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	←	→	

Use: Light
Difficulty: Moderate
USGS Map(s): BLUE POINT Quad.




Mineral Peak
Rattlesnake Rd #99
Rattlesnake Creek
N
To Mineral Peak
Franklin Bridge
#514
East Fork Rattlesnake Trail #514
#514
Sheep Mt. Loop
To Sheep Mt. Trail #513
Sheep Mountain

NARRATIVE East Fork Rattlesnake Trail #514

This trail leaves Rattlesnake Road #99 just beyond the Franklin Bridge switchback. The trailhead is marked with a sign saying "East Fork Rattlesnake, Mineral Peak 3.5 miles." The first mile of trail passes through a narrow gorge strewn with huge moss-covered boulders below frequent waterfalls and shaded by Sycamore, Douglas-fir, and Ponderosa pine. Beyond the first mile, the trail climbs up a south-facing slope with open stands of Ponderosa pine, Aspen, and Douglas-fir. After 2 miles, the trail splits. One fork branches uphill toward Mineral Peak; the main trail descends to the valley and crosses one tributary of the East Fork. The Trail is narrow and steep along a valley wall for about 1.5 miles before it drops into a marshy area in the valley. The trail then climbs out of this shady valley; at the first switchback it is joined by the Sheep Mountain loop trail from Wisherd Ridge. The trail then climbs through an old burn with dead snags and false huckleberry and proceeds to a pass on the divide between a tributary of Woods Gulch Trail #513. The hiker can see clearcuts in the Gold Creek drainage and looking west, the lower portion of High Falls Creek. To the south, Sheep Mountain looms on the horizon. A wide variety of animals and birds can be seen along this trail due to favorable habitat present in this drainage.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

Hiking

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Rattlesnake/Gold Creek Area

TRAIL BEGINNING, 6520 ft. elev. (1987 m.) Approximately 100 yards above the end of the main Gold Creek Road.

TRAIL ENDING, 7840 ft. elev. (2390 m.) Forks of Fly Lake and Gold Ridge Trail #76.

ACCESS From Bonner up Blackriver Highway #200 approximately 9 miles to Twin Creek Logging Camp. Turn left through the logging camp. Stay on the main Gold Creek Drainage Road #126 to its end and continue on the right side of the creek.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS This trail is fairly level providing access up the main section of Gold Creek. Attractions are excellent fishing, cascading waterfalls and an alpine meadow. The undeveloped area provides a near-wilderness experience for an overnight trip or access to the Rattlesnake area.

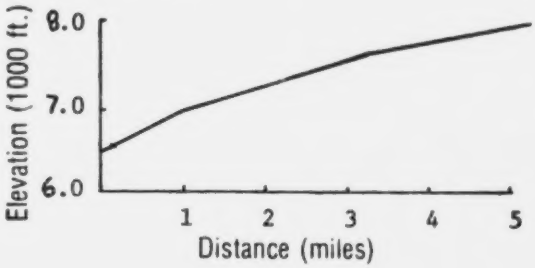
GOLD CREEK TRAIL #518

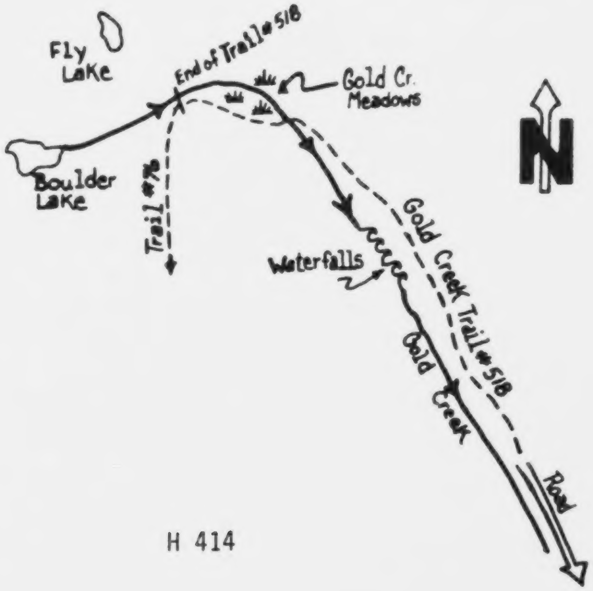
Length: 5.5 mi. (9.0 km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	←——	——→	

Use: Light
Difficulty: Easy
USGS Map(s): LUNA LAKE and GOLD CREEK PEAK Quads.





NARRATIVE Gold Creek Trail #518

This trail starts where the logging road stops. Although the naturalness of the area is the main attraction, there are unique areas along the way. Gold Creek flows through a steep, rocky gorge with cascading waterfalls and white water 1.75 miles up the trail. At this point the trail is 200 yards above the stream and provides overlooks and picture-taking vistas. From here the trail has a moderately level grade through dense timber to Gold Creek Meadow, an alpine meadow of approximately 10 acres that is an excellent camping spot. Fish are abundant in the pools along the meadow. The trail skirts the south side of the meadow and ends at the junction with Fly Lake and Gold Ridge Trails. Fly Lake is a cross country walk from the trail junction, but it can be found easily with the use of topographic maps (Boulder Lake Quad.). Boulder Lake can also be found from this junction. Both lakes have fish in them.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

Horse/Pack Saddle

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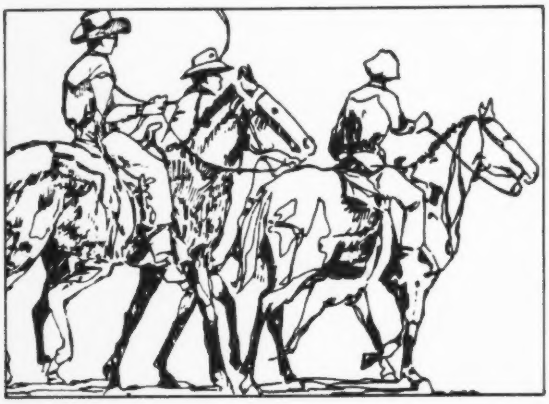
Saddle horse and pack stock use, once the traditional travel mode through the back country, has become a recreational pastime for many people. Many of the 500 miles of trails on the Sample Ranger District provide a quality riding experience, ranging from short trails for day, afternoon, and evening excursions to extended trips into the back country.

Because of increasing recreation use in the mountains, not only by horse users but many other recreationists, some environmental damage has taken place. Proper horse handling techniques can help minimize damage to the Forest; horse-use etiquette tips are included on the following page.



HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

Horse/Pack Saddle

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TIPS TO MINIMIZE HORSE-USE IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL FOREST

1. Take the minimum number of stock needed. Fewer animals create less impact on the land. One pack animal should suffice for two persons.
2. Staying on the trail and not shortcutting switchbacks will reduce erosion problems and unwanted parallel trails.
3. Select camping areas off main trails to prevent overuse and reduce conflicts between stock and people.
4. Camping spots should be a minimum of 200 feet from water sources to help prevent contamination.
5. Pack with lightweight equipment to reduce bulkiness and number of stock.
6. Avoid overgrazing forage areas. If feed is packed in, be certain it is weed-free to prevent introducing noxious plants.
7. When confining stock:
    a. Do not tie horses to live trees for extended periods. Use a pole or rope hitch rail and select a site where stock cannot trample tree roots and damage plants. Rocky ground is best.
    b. If animals are inclined to paw while tied, use hobbles to allow movement but prevent damage to soil and plants.
8. Leave your campsite in better condition than you found it.

Horse/Pack Saddle
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Rattlesnake/Gold Creek Area

TRAIL BEGINNING, 7300 ft. elev. (2220 m.) At Boulder Lake/Porcupine Creek Pass on Boulder Lake Trail #504.

TRAIL ENDING, 7800 ft. elev. (2380 m.) Summit of Triangle Peak.

ACCESS From Rattlesnake Road (County Route #26) turn northwest onto Sawmill Gulch Road for .25 mile to parking area. From Rattlesnake main entrance, follow Rattlesnake Road #99 for 13 miles to Boulder Lake trailhead. Follow Boulder Lake Trail #504 for 3 miles to Boulder Lake/Porcupine Creek Pass.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS This is a lightly used ridge trail with a panoramic view of the west Rattlesnake Peaks, Jolla Valley, and a glimpse of the Mission and Swan ranges. There are suitable campsites along this trail, but no water or horsefeed. It is 18.5 miles to Triangle Peak from the Rattlesnake entrance gate and would ordinarily be a 3-day trip, but could be done in 2 long days.

Due to rocky trail conditions, horses should have shoes.

Motorcyclists use this trail also, so horse riders should be alert for cycles and have control of horses.

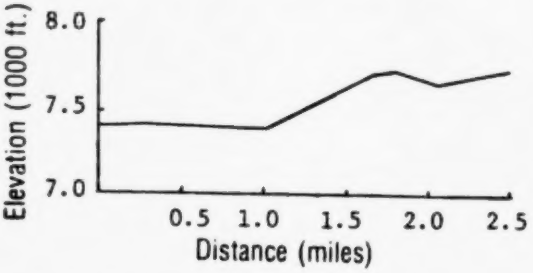
TRIANGLE PEAK TRAIL #533

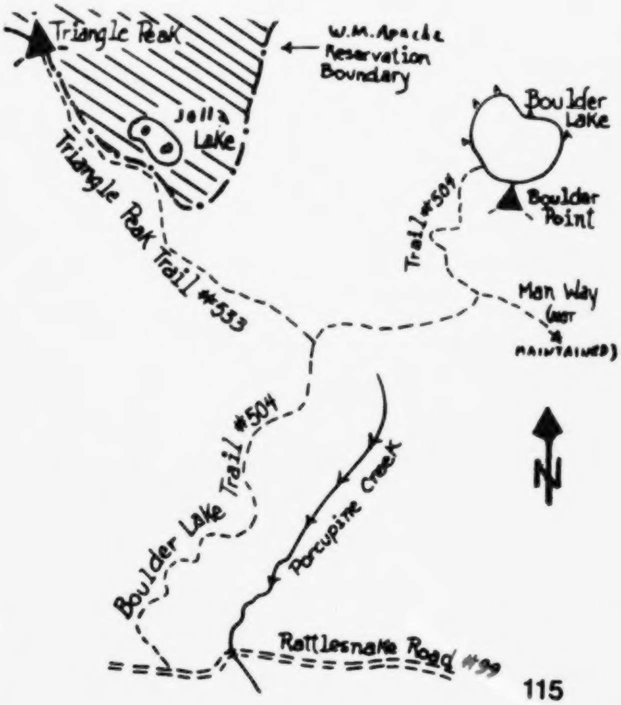
Length: 2.5 mi. (4.0 km.) Begins 18.5 mi. from Rattlesnake locked gate.

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	←	→	

Use: Light
Difficulty: Easy
USGS Map(s): TRIANGLE PEAK Quad.

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W.M. Apache Reservation Boundary
Jolla Lake
Boulder Lake
Boulder Point
Triangle Peak Trail #533
Trail #504
Man Way (not maintained)
Boulder Lake Trail #504
Porcupine Creek
Rattlesnake Road #99
N

NARRATIVE Triangle Peak Trail #533

The Triangle Peak Trail departure from Boulder Lake Trail is well defined. It begins in a pass on top of the ridge between Boulder Lake and Porcupine Creek. The trail proceeds northwesterly along a ridge dividing the Jocko and Rattlesnake drainages. This ridge is covered with an open stand of Alpine fir and Whitebark pine, with a ground cover of grouse whortleberry.

The trail offers a panoramic view of the west Rattlesnake Peaks, Valley, Boulder Lake, Jolla Lake, and a view of the higher peaks in the Mission and Swan Mountain ranges. All 2.5 miles of this trail is on a ridgetop which serves as the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation boundary and culminates at Triangle Peak--once used as a fire lookout.

There are many locations to camp, but water and horsefeed are not available on this dry ridgetop.

Triangle Peak is 18.5 miles from the main Rattlesnake entrance and the Boulder Lake Trail leading to the trailhead is narrow, eroded, rocky, and steep. Horses should be well shod and given frequent rests along steep sections, as well as watered where possible. This trip could be made in 2 days, but a 3-day trip would be easier on horses. Campsites with forage are available near the Boulder Lake trailhead, 3 miles from the Triangle Peak trailhead.

Many species of wildlife can be seen along the trail.

People wishing to use Tribal land for recreation activities must secure a special permit from the Tribal Council.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredictable.

Horse/Pack Saddle

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Rock Creek Area

TRAIL BEGINNING, 6600 ft. elev. (2012 m.) From I-10 at the Rock Creek Interchange, south on Rock Creek Road 30 miles to Sandstone Ridge Trail sign (approximately 1.5 miles south of Big Hogback).

TRAIL ENDING, 8690 ft. elev. (2649 m.) Trail ends at a primitive road between Sliderock Lookout Road and Upper Willow Creek across from Mountain Springs campsite.

ACCESS #1 Access to the trail is on Rock Creek, approximately 30 miles south of the I-10 interchange. After passing Hogback Creek (large double culvert) there is a rock outcrop or "hogback" where the road leaves the creek bottom. From this hogback it is 1.5 miles to the trail sign which is just past a natural-stained summer home.

ACCESS #2 The upper end of this trail is accessible via Rock Creek Road #102 to Brewster Creek Road #308, continuing past the Sliderock Lookout turnoff toward Willow Creek. The Upper part of this road is recommended only for high clearance vehicles or 4-wheel drives. The trailhead is across the road from Mountain Spring, which is a campsite and natural spring.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS This trail bisects and area that receives little use because of steepness of the trail from Rock Creek to the ridge top--a climb of 5600 feet in about 3 miles. Water occurs at only three sites along the trail. After the first 3 miles, the trail follows Sandstone ridge.

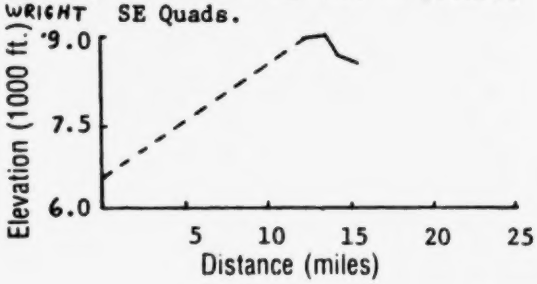
SANDSTONE RIDGE TRAIL #228

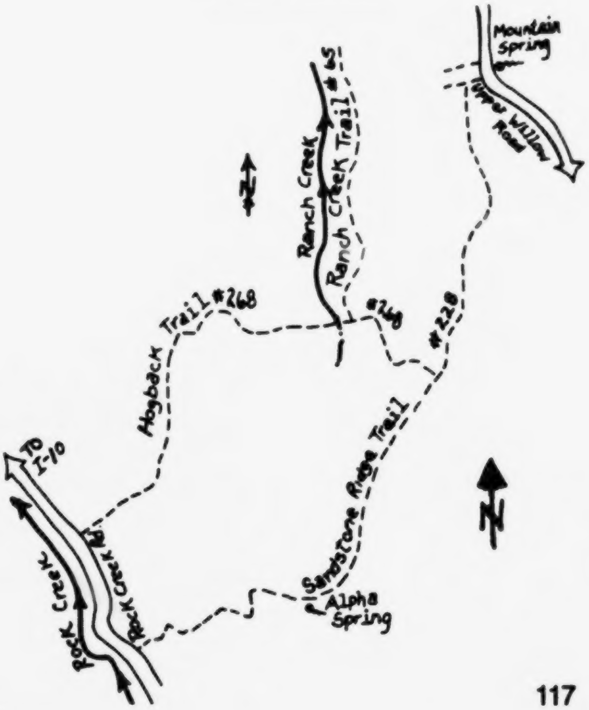
Length: 15.5mi. (25.0km.)

Recommended season:

Spring	Summer ←	Fall →	Winter

Use: **Light**
Difficulty: **Difficult**
USGS Map(s): **PADRE** 1 NW (out of print); **PADRE** 1 NE (out of print); **WRIGHT** SE Quads.





NARRATIVE Sandstone Ridge Trail #228

This trail climbs steadily for the first 3 miles and receives little use. The trail offers pleasing scenery in all directions, especially from vistas above 8000 feet elevation, which makes this 3-day horse trip an outstanding outing.

From the creek bottom, the trail travels upward through Ponderosa pine parks and open south-facing grassland that is key winter range for animals such as elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. An excellent view of Rock Creek Valley is seen from these openings. The trail is steep as it heads up a ridge, with small open parks.

Beyond an outfitter hunting camp, the trail becomes less steep and follows an broad ridge with grassland parks and open lodgepole timber. At about 8 miles from its beginning, Hogback Trail #268 branches to the left. Stock water is found down this trail, 2 miles from the junction, at an old campsite (Alpha camp). The water is 200 yards to the left of the trail. Although this is a logical area for a camp, horse feed is very scarce. At a minimum, supplemental grain should be packed in.

Sandstone Trail, from this junction north, is close to timberline and becomes rocky and more difficult to travel. Wildlife is abundant in the summer and can usually be seen evenings and mornings. An excellent view of Ranch Creek and Quigg Peak can be seen from the trail. As the trail nears its end, it drops onto a old mining access road. The route ends at the Sliderock-Willow Road at the Mountain Springs campsite. There is stock feed and water here.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredicatable.

HP 501a

HUNTING

The State Department of Fish and Game has primary responsibility for managing wildlife in Arizona and New Mexico. The Forest Service is responsible for providing forest and grassland habitat, which supplies food, water, shelter, and solitude for wildlife on the National Forests. The Sample Ranger District, adjoining private, corporate, and State lands contain a variety of game ranges and habitats, from high mountainous areas to low farmed valleys. State Fish and Game Regulations provide information concerning hunting seasons, shooting hours, and other considerations and are available throughout Arizona and New Mexico at Fish and Game offices and sporting goods shops.

To disseminate information on wildlife management and help hunters, the Recreation Opportunity Guide provides general comments concerning wildlife ranges and habitats. The Hiking, 4-Wheel Drive, Motorcycle and Horseback sections of the Recreation Opportunity Guide provide references to aid in selecting access routes to hunting areas. The Forest Visitor Map shows roads open for motorized travel during hunting season.

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Big Game Hunting

Eastern Arizona is famous for big game hunting. In the Sample area, six big game species are frequently hunted. Mule deer are the most widely distributed and most popular big game in the State. Whitetail deer are found in southwestern Arizona, along river bottoms, and the foothill uplands of Central Arizona. Elk are probably the most prized big game animal. Elk are distributed primarily in the forested and mountainous regions. Most bear are taken incidentally while hunting other big game. Elk and turkey provide hunting for limited numbers of hunters drawing special permits. Antelope are found on open, high mesas.

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ELK

Arizona and New Mexico are not the most important elk hunting states in the nation. Elk have increased and spread in the mountainous part of the states following hunting to almost extinction in the early 1900's. Elk are now distributed in most of the mountainous and forested portions of the states.

The elk habitat varies from the arid deserts and plateaus to the temporate forests of northwestern Arizona and New Mexico. Regardless of differences, each type of habitat provides several basic requirements. Elk require large blocks of undeveloped land. Major herds are associated with public lands.

Elk prefer native bunch grasses for winter food. However, they are very adaptable and will feed on other grasses, sedges, forbs and browse. They also quickly acquire a taste for hay from ranchers' stacks. Elk feed heavily on green grass in the spring, but switch mostly to forbs such as dandelion, geranium, and aster in the summer. Grasses again become the most important food in the fall. On ranges where browse is the main food, 90 percent of the winter diet and 50 percent of the summer diet may consist of browse.

Their habitats are classified as browse ranges and grass meadows on the basis of winter food availability. Browse ranges predominate in the heavily forested areas of the southwest. Major forage plants on browse winter ranges are aspen, ceanothus, maple, serviceberry, chokecherry, and sedges. These plants occur in greatest quantity on burned over areas, where the forest canopy is absent or sparse.

Elk populations thrive best during the shrub stages of plant succession. Elk numbers decline as coniferous trees invade the old burns and replace browse and herbaceous plants.

Elk breed in September and October. During this period the musical bugling of the bulls provides a thrilling experience to back-country visitors; the calves are born in late May and early June.

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MULE DEER (ODOCOILEUS HEMIONUS)

Mule deer are an important big game animal in Arizona and New Mexico.

Early explorers, fur trappers, and settlers used and depended on the mule deer as a source of food and clothing. The hides were even used as legal tender ($.50 per hide) in parts of the west just before the turn of the century.

Lewis and Clark can be credited with writing the first detailed account of mule deer habitat requirements. There is evidence that Lewis coined the name "Mule Deer" when he stated that they rarely found the mule deer in any except rough country--they prefer the rough grounds and are seldom found in woodlands or river bottom.

Today there are few areas in the southwest, either from the standpoint of topography or vegetation, where mule deer cannot be found.

They are found at all elevations from under 300 feet on desert flats in the southwest to over 8,000 feet in north and east. They seem to be equally at home in the ponderosa pine forests, the spruce forests, juniper flats, river bottoms, badlands, high mountains, and rolling forests.

All wild animals need specific kinds of food and cover, and the mule deer is no exception. In late spring, summer, and early fall, certain weed-type plants are a necessity in the mule deer's diet. Leaves and twig ends of certain bushes are also eaten. With the approach and arrival of winter, the mule deer shifts almost entirely to specific types of brush for food. As new green growths of weeds appear in the spring, deer begin to use them. Also at this time deer use some grass. Food habit studies have shown beyond any doubt that grass is not used extensively by mule deer. Browse and weeds (forbs) are the mule deer's primary food.

The list of plants that must be present in a healthy condition for a large deer population varies only slightly from one end of the Region to the other. The main browse plants are mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, chokecherry, serviceberry, common juniper, mountain maple, evergreen and red stemmed Ceanothus, sagebrush, skunkbrush, rabbitbrush, and aspen. Several other plants may be used under certain conditions. These plants constitute only a small part of the total number of brush-type plants that grow in Arizona, indicating that not all brush is good deer food.

In general, it can be said that mule deer prefer a rather open type country containing an adequate supply of the food plants mentioned, interspersed with escape cover of moderate to heavy timber, aspen groves, brushy draws, and washes.

Hunting

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Game Bird Hunting

Bird hunting is an increasingly popular sport with Arizona hunters. More than 75,000 people hunt upland game birds each fall and about 20,000 hunt waterfowl. Many species of upland game birds occur in Arizona. Native birds are white-tailed ptarmigan, ruffled grouse, and blue grouse. Quail and mourning doves are native and abundant. Introduced species are ring-necked pheasant, Merriam's turkey, and chukar partridge. Merriam's turkey, sage grouse, and the sharp-tailed grouse are presently not hunted in the Sample area.

Hunting

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Waterfowl Hunting

Migratory birds are a highly mobile group, flying across state and national boundaries between nesting and wintering areas. Waterfowl are considered an international resource. They are managed on a continental basis through separate treaties. Between the United States and Canada and the United States and Mexico. In the United States, the basic responsibility for migratory bird management is with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife.

The important migratory birds in the southwest are ducks and geese. The ducks are divided by body structure and habit into two groups, puddle ducks, and diving ducks. Puddle ducks are also called dabbling ducks because they tip the front half of their body under the surface when feeding in shallow waters. Diving ducks are associated with deep water and can dive great distances for food. In the southwest, the puddle ducks, primarily mallards, are preferred by most hunters.

In spring and summer, waterfowl are widely distributed across the State, with about 20 species of ducks nesting here. The distribution and concentration of ducks during this period fluctuates between years, and are closely associated with changing water conditions. Fall and winter distribution of ducks is associated with weather conditions and migration habits. Species such as pintail and bluewinged teal start migrating in late August. The majority of the mallard migration occurs shortly before freeze-up, usually late November. A few species of ducks, predominantly mallards winter in the State on warm water areas or open water on rivers and lakes.

Arizona and New Mexico are situated on a major water flyway for Western North America. Duck population densities in certain parts of the States, southwestern areas have low waterfowl densities, but contribute significantly as a resting area by virtue of the area's size and duck species involved. Mountain areas, with many streams, lakes and beaver dams, supplement the breeding habitat.

Waterfowl require a variety of habitat during migration, breeding, and wintering. Breeding habitat should be sufficient to supply needs from the time birds arrive in early spring through the time the young are ready to fly in late summer. During the latter part of the nesting season adult waterfowl undergo a post-nuptial molt and lose their primary wing and tail feathers. They remain flightless for several weeks until these feathers can be replaced. During this period adult waterfowl concentrate on big water areas containing an abundance of food and cover. Nesting requirements vary considerably among species of waterfowl. For example, puddle ducks nest on dry ground, but depend on water areas for food and brood survial. Diving ducks build nests on water or in holes in trees. Duck broods require relatively stable water levels and abundant escape cover and feed. The mallard, being relatively adaptable, is found nesting around all wetland areas in the State.

Migration habitat is used by waterfowl for feeding and resting during migration between the breading and wintering grounds. This habitat also serves as an important hunting area. There is lack of this habitat in the Region, particularly in the southern parts of the States where there is a shortage of resting/feeding areas associated with water.

Wintering habitat for ducks is generally spring-fed streams and ponds, warm water drains, and large rivers with open water. Mallards winter in the southwest on small warm water areas and the portion of streams and rivers adjacent to grain fields.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP--remember that Nature is unpredicatable.

Identification/Gathering

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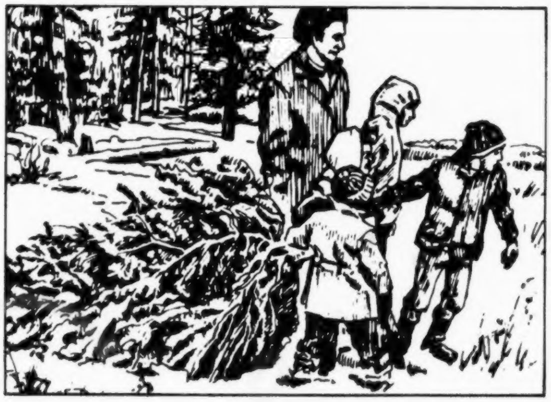
IDENTIFICATION/GATHERING

Gathering forest resources was once a necessity. Today it is enjoyed as a recreational activity and can lead to understanding the forest ecosystem as well as our pioneer heritage. Gathering forest resources provides an adventure in the out-of-doors and may result in berry pies or jams, a soft and warming fire, or a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

Opportunities for obtaining berries, firewood, Christmas trees, and other forest resources are found throughout the Sample Ranger District and the Cholla National Forest. Some resources are best captured through photography, and the plants and wildflowers in the alpine and subalpine areas offer excellent opportunities for the photographer.

Visitors should exercise discretion in gathering plants. Fragile alpine and meadow areas harbor rare and possibly endangered species, and plant regeneration may be very slow, if not impossible once the plants are gathered. Some plants may be poisonous and should be avoided. Visitors should be aware that gathering wildflowers and shrubs in picnic areas, campgrounds, and developed recreation sites is prohibited.



Identification/Gathering
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CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING

Each year, more people are cutting their own Christmas tree. You are required to obtain a Christmas tree permit that must be in your possession when cutting a tree. The Sample Ranger District issues the permit to coordinate management of forest resources. The permit entitles the bearer to cut one tree from the Sample Ranger District, or the adjoining Ninemile District.

Christmas tree permits are only valid for the season and year indicated on the cover. Several areas are closed to Christmas tree cutting due to over-thinned stands, areas of concentrated public use, and for the protection of young stands. These area closures are listed on the permit. Also included on the permit are guidelines to follow when cutting Christmas trees, along with recommendations for cutting. Cutting Christmas trees can be a helpful aid in the management of forest resources. Tree growth is hastened by thinning overcrowded stands and providing more space for taller, healthier trees to grow.

If you don't know where to obtain a tree, or have problems choosing an area, the Cholla Forest Travel Plan or a Forest Recreation Map indicate landownerships and road access. Rule out all closed areas listed in the permit and choose an area of the National Forest designated on your permit. Check road closures on the Forest Travel Plan and right-of-way accesses on the Forest Recreation Map--both available upon request at Forest Service offices.

Please remember that you are allowed to cut ONE tree only on a one tree per permit (tag) and to observe all "No Trespassing" signs.

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FIREWOOD GATHERING

Getting the year's firewood can be an enjoyable family outing. Most people cut wood in the fall when colorful days offer excellent weather. In using wood, you are utilizing a renewable resource and helping to reduce the fire hazard. The Forest Service recognized the value of fuel wood and recently has been changing timber sale contracts to leave more dead trees adjacent to roads for the convenience of woodcutters.

Firewood permits are issued at the Sample Ranger District. It is necessary to get the permit from the District on which you intend to gather firewood. Permits are free if the firewood is for personal use and the amount does not exceed 10 cords. Permits are available at any time of the year and are usually valid for one season. If you are cutting wood to sell, give away, or for trade of services, you are required to purchase a commercial permit. Personal or commercial permits must be in your possession when gathering and transporting firewood.

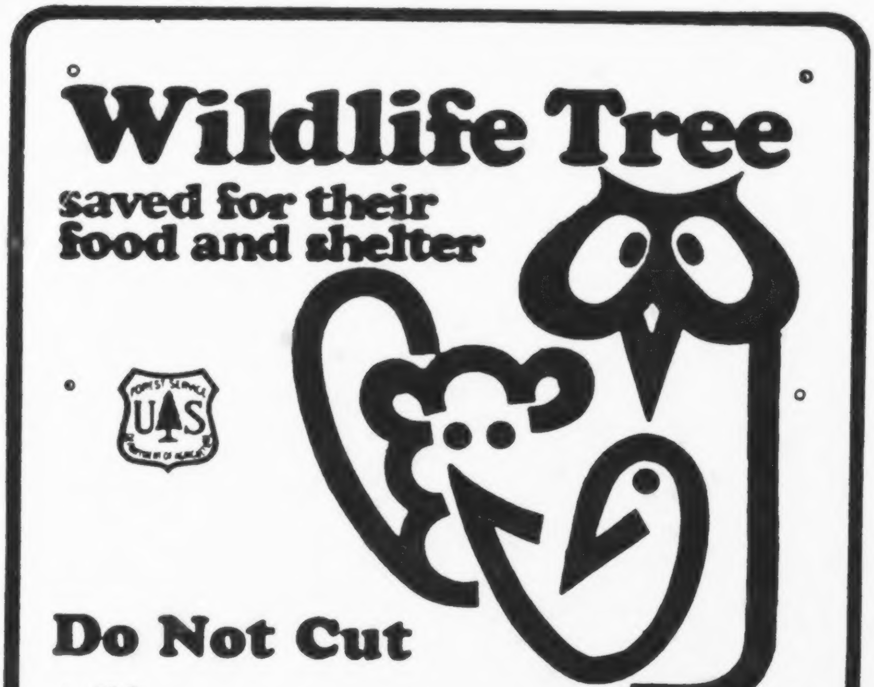
A few National Forest areas are not open to wood cutting. For example, on the Sample District these areas include the Lower Blue Mountain and Pottee Canyon Recreation areas, all campgrounds, National Forest land under contract for logging and other timber-related activities.

Firewood must be cut from dead trees or down logs. Debris from past logging or thinning is a good source. When cutting a standing tree, make certain the tree is dead.

Remember that snags provide nesting and roosting sites for birds and mammals. Do not cut snags marked "Wildlife tree" with a square brown metal sign. There are also many trees valuable to wildlife that have not been marked. The most valuable snags to leave standing for wildlife are those with existing nest cavities and round or triangular-shaped holes.

During the State fire season from May 1 through September 30, each vehicle must carry the basic firefighting tools--a 1 gallon container, an axe at least 26 inches long and a shovel at least 30 inches long with a 6-inch blade.

Park your vehicle off the road and provide a warning to other travelers when falling a tree near the road. Avoid falling a tree into the roadway and clean the ditches of debris created by the cutting and loading. Do not cut within 200 feet of a road, cut the stumps low to the ground. This will help prevent an unsightly appearance for other forest users.


Wildlife Tree
saved for their food and shelter
FOREST SERVICE
U S
Do Not Cut
26-3

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. A standard cord is a well-stacked pile of logs 4 by 4 by 8 feet. However, since few fireplaces can take four or eight foot logs, most sales by commercial suppliers are "face cords." These are stacks 4 by 8 feet, cut to the desired length. You can cut up to 10 standard cords of wood for your personal use under a permit.

2. Most wood will not burn when freshly cut, it must be "seasoned" by drying for several months before using. Splitting logs will hasten drying. These split logs should be stacked in a protected area, such as under a roof eave for 6 to 10 months.

3. Before lighting your fire, make sure the room is well ventilated, the damper open, and flue unobstructed. Place a screen in front of your fireplace to catch the sparks and keep a fire extinguisher handy. When indoors never use flammable liquids to light fires.

4. Burning wet or highly resinous wood is hazardous. Tars and wood extracts are produced that may destroy your chimney flue or catch it on fire.

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RATINGS FOR DRIED FIREWOOD

Hardwood Trees	Relative amount of Heat	Easy to Burn	Easy to Split	Does it have heavy smoke?	General Rating and Remarks
Aspen, cottonwood, oak	Low	Yes	Yes	Medium	Fair, but good kindling
Softwood Trees					
Douglas-fir	High	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good, but smoky
Western White pine, ponderosa pine, true firs, pinyon pine	Low	Medium	Yes	Medium	Fair to good kindling
Spruce	Low	Yes	Yes	Medium	Poor, but good kindling

BERRY PICKING

Berries can be found throughout the Sample Ranger District and the Cholla National Forest. Included are blackberries, elderberries, strawberries, wild raspberries, rose hips, and pinyon nuts.

Many factors such as elevation, ripening seasons, and climate contribute to the location of fertile berry producing sites. Because abundant sunlight enhances berry production, the best berry picking is usually found along abandoned logging roads, in recent timber-harvested areas, and in areas opened to sunshine by forest fires. Because areas along roads and close to town are the first to be picked over, the best picking is likely to be found away from accessible areas along trails and abandoned logging roads.

Pick only the amount of berries that will be consumed. Bears and other wildlife enjoy berries too and often depend on them for sustenance.

Pinyon nuts are found in association with juniper flats or on pine forest fringe areas.

BLACKBERRY

(Rubus spp.)

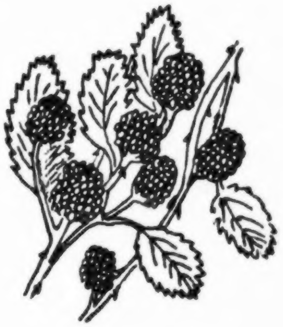
Description: Blackberry is a low erect shrub, from 2-5 feet tall. Flowers are shaped like small white cups that blossom in June and July, depending on elevation. Leaves are short, elliptical and alternate on the stems. The bush sheds its leaves in the fall. Stem bark is reddish (often yellowish-green in shaded sites). The berry varies from round to oval and colored purplish-black.

Ripening Season: July-August By mid-July, berries on sunny, south-facing slopes and lower elevations are first to ripen. Good picking can generally be found as late as October on north-facing slopes.

Habitat: Confierous forests in open to shady sites with acidic soils. They can be found at elevations ranging from 6,000-9,000 feet in the White mountains. The best sites are those that can support fir and ponderosa pine in abundant sunlight. The best picking is usually found in areas open by forest fires, on trails through fir stands and timber cuts, or along old roads.

Common Uses of Blackberries: Blackberries make excellent pies, jam, bread, and pancakes. For details on preparation, refer to recipes on the following page.

CAUTION: Remember that bears like blackberries too. If they think you are imposing on "their" berry territory, there may be problems. It is advisable to retreat from bears!



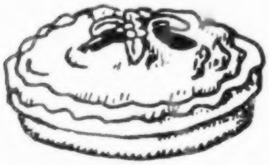
Blackberry

BLACKBERRY BREAD

½ cup butter
1½ cup sugar
cream together

Blend in:
2 eggs
1 cup milk
3 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Blend in 2 cups dry berries.
Bake at 375°, 40 to 45 minutes.

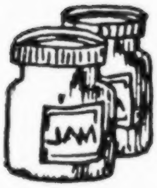


BLACKBERRY PIE

Preheat oven to 450°

1 qt. blackberries
1 cup sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. butter
1 tbsp. lemon juice
3 tbsp. cornstarch

Pour berries in crust with mixed dry ingredients. Dot with butter and add lemon juice. Roll out top crust. Cut design in center, or slits. Place over filling. Rub or cut off excess around edge, sealing. Flute edge. Place in 450° oven for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° or 325° and bake for 30 minutes. Cool. Eat!! Enjoy!!!



BLACKBERRY JAM

6 cups crushed blackberries
1 package (2 oz.) powdered pectin
8 cups sugar

Prepare 9 half-pint-sized canning jars. Wash and drain the berries; put through a food chopper or whirl in the blender until the berries are crushed. Measure 6 cups of the crushed fruit into a large (6 quart) pan. (If enough fruit is not available, add water to fill the last fraction of a cup.) Stir in the pectin and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Add the sugar and continue stirring until the mixture comes to a full rolling boil. Let the fruit boil exactly 2 minutes. Remove from heat and skim off the foam. Makes 9 half pints.

NOTE: To use a 1 3/4ounce package of pectin instead of the 2-ounce size, make this change: After adding sugar, boil jam just 1 minute stirring constantly.

Thanks to Nancy Bern, Sample County Extension Agent, for these recipes.

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ROSE HIP

(Rosa Woodsii)

Other Common Names: wild woods rose

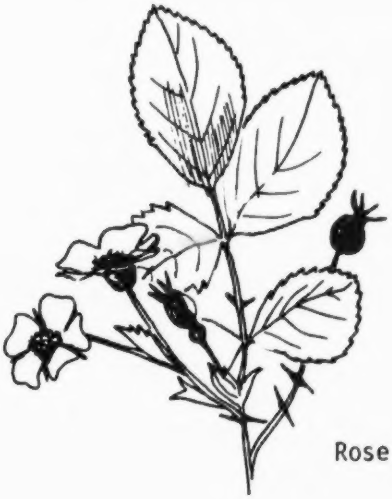
Description: Wild rose is a shrub 3-10 feet tall, with prickly branched stems. It blooms with pink 5-petaled flowers May through July. The leaves alternate on the stems and are divided into 5-7 leaflets. In some species the leaves turn red and orange in the fall. The rose hip is the fruit of the rose bush and contains the seeds. The red-orange pulp around the seeds is edible and is high in Vitamins C and A, and calcium and iron.

Ripening Season: July through August.

Habitat: Wild roses grow in moist soil and often form thickets and mingle with other shrubs and trees along streams. Wild roses are found at elevations up to 7,000 feet.

Common Uses of Rose Hips: Rose hips can be used in different combinations--the flesh combined with other foods, or a syrup made and used for flavoring. If the flesh is used, hips that are not over-ripe should be selected. The flesh should be separated from the seeds. A thin, transparent membrane surrounds them, and with proper manipulation, the entire seed cluster can be removed within the membrane.

Fresh rose hips are extremely rich in Vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Even after the rose hips are cooked and made into syrup or jam, a large amount of the ascorbic acid is retained. To insure the greatest amount of vitamins and flavor, use the rose hips the day they are picked and gather them when they are red but slightly under-ripe on a dry, sunny day. Even after frost or when completely dried, the rose hips are worth picking. Use them in jams, syrup, or raw in salads and desserts.



Rose Hip

Rose hip flesh or juice were found to add to the nutritive value of several food combinations without destroying palatability. Apple juice fortified with Vitamin C can be secured by adding up to 4 T. thin rose hip syrup per glass of apple juice. Rose hip flesh combines very well with the flavor of apples in applesauce. (3/4 C. hips for recipe for 6 people). Italian prune and rose hip sherbet is not only a very palatable product, but also an excellent source of Vitamin C since ascorbic acid is somewhat stabilized in a sugar mixture upon freezing. Candied rose hips are used successfully in such products as cookies, puddings, and upside down cake. (Hips may be candied by boiling them, seeds removed, for 10 minutes in a mixture of 1/2 c. sugar and 1/4 c. water.)

Raw Rose Hips

Remove bud end, cut rose hips in two and dig out the seeds with point of knife. Use the hips in salad greens, gelatin salads, and sandwich spreads. Use as soon as possible after picking.

Dried Rose Hips

Cut rose hips in two and remove the seeds. Dry quickly in a cool oven or warming closet. They taste sweet and crunchy. They may be added to cereal, cooked with fruit, or pulverized and put in baked products.

Mrs. Parkin's Rose Hip Jam

Prepare: 4 lbs. (about 8 cups) puree of rose hips, 2 lemons, rind, and juice, 1 lb. sugar.

Slide lemon rind very thin and cook in small amount of water a short time. Combine puree, lemon, and sugar and cook until thick and clear.

Rose Hip Upside Down Cake

1 T. shortening, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup fresh rose hips (seeds removed). Melt shortening in cake pan. Add sugar and blend thoroughly. Spread evenly over bottom of cake pan. Place rose hips in syrup. Pour batter over this mixture.

Batter: 1 T. shortening, 3 T. sugar, 1 egg, 1 1/2 t. baking powder. Blend shortening with sugar and egg until fluffy. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk. Beat until smooth. Pour over rose hip mixture. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 2.

From Iva Holladay, Pima

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The bibliography that follows lists references and materials about a variety of forest recreation activities and related subjects. Although it only lists a few of the many references on these topics, it should aid those wanting more detailed information than is contained in ROG, and tell where these materials can be obtained.

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Washington, DC 20402

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Washington, DC 20461

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Pueblo, CO 81009 Ph. 303/544-5277

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Survival Education Assn.
9035 Golden Given Road
Tacoma, WA 98445

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Santa Fe, NM 87503

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517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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9035 Golden Given Road
Tacoma, WA 98445

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P.O. Box 1584
San Bruno, CA 94066

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P.O. Box 552
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Denver, CO 80222

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17th and D Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20006

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Wilma Roberts James
Naturegraph Publishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 1075
Happy Camp, CA 96039

Back to Eden
Jethro Kloss
Woodbridge Press Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2053
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

Recreational Vehicles and Auto Safety

Brochures and Booklets

Automobile Survival Kit
Survival Education Assn.
9035 Golden Given Road
Tacoma, WA 98445

Camping Safely with Liquified
Petroleum Gas
DHEW Pub# (HSM) 72-10024
U.S. Government Printing Office
Pueblo Sales Office
Pueblo, CO 81009 Ph. 303/544-5277

How to Drive on Long Trips
Montana Highway Patrol
Helena, MT 59601

R.V. Safety
Channing L. Bette Co., Inc.
Greenfield, MA 01301

Don't Be Fuelish
Energy Conservation & Evnironment
Advertising Council
Federal Energy Administration
Washington, DC 20461

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in
Recreational Vehicles
Department of Social & Health Services
Office of Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1788
Olympia, WA 98504

Drive Prepared
Allstate Insurance CO.
Allstate Plaza
Northbrook, IL 60062

Open Your Eyes to Vision in
Highway Safety
Ameircan Optometric Assn.
7000 Chippewa Street
St. Louis, MO 63119

Winter Activities

Brochures and Booklets

Be Safe in the Mountains in Winter
Mountain Rescue Council
P.O. Box 67
Seattle, WA 98111

The ABC's of Snowmobile Safety
Washington State Parks &
Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 1128
Olympia, WA 98504

Snowmobiling Safety Manual
Western Snowmobile Assn., Inc.
Box 28
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

For the Winter Mountaineer
The Adirondack Mt. Club., Inc.
172 Ridge Street
Glen Falls, NY 12801

Snowshoeing
The Mountaineers
719 Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98111

Books

Avalanche Handbook
Ronald I. Perla and
M. Martinelli, Jr.
USDA, Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Forest & Range
Experiment Station
240 W. Prospect Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521

The New Cross-Country Ski Book
John Caldwell
Stephen Greene Press
P.O. Box 1000
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Ski Touring, An Introductory Guide
William E. Osgood & Leslie J. Hurley
C. E. Tuttle Inc.
28 S. Main Street
Rutland, VT 05701

Snow Camping and Mountaineering
Edward A. Rossit
Funk & Wagnalls
666 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10019

The Snowshoe Book
William E. Osgood & Leslie J. Hurley
Stephen Greene Press
P.O. Box 1000
Brattleboro, VT 05301

The Ski Touring Guide
Ski Touring Council
West Hill Road
Troy, VT 05868

A Sierra Club Totebook, Wilderness
Skiing
The Sierra Club Foundation
530 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Snow Camper's Guide
Raymond Bridge
Charles Scribner and SOns
597 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Recreation Opportunity Guide

Instructions